



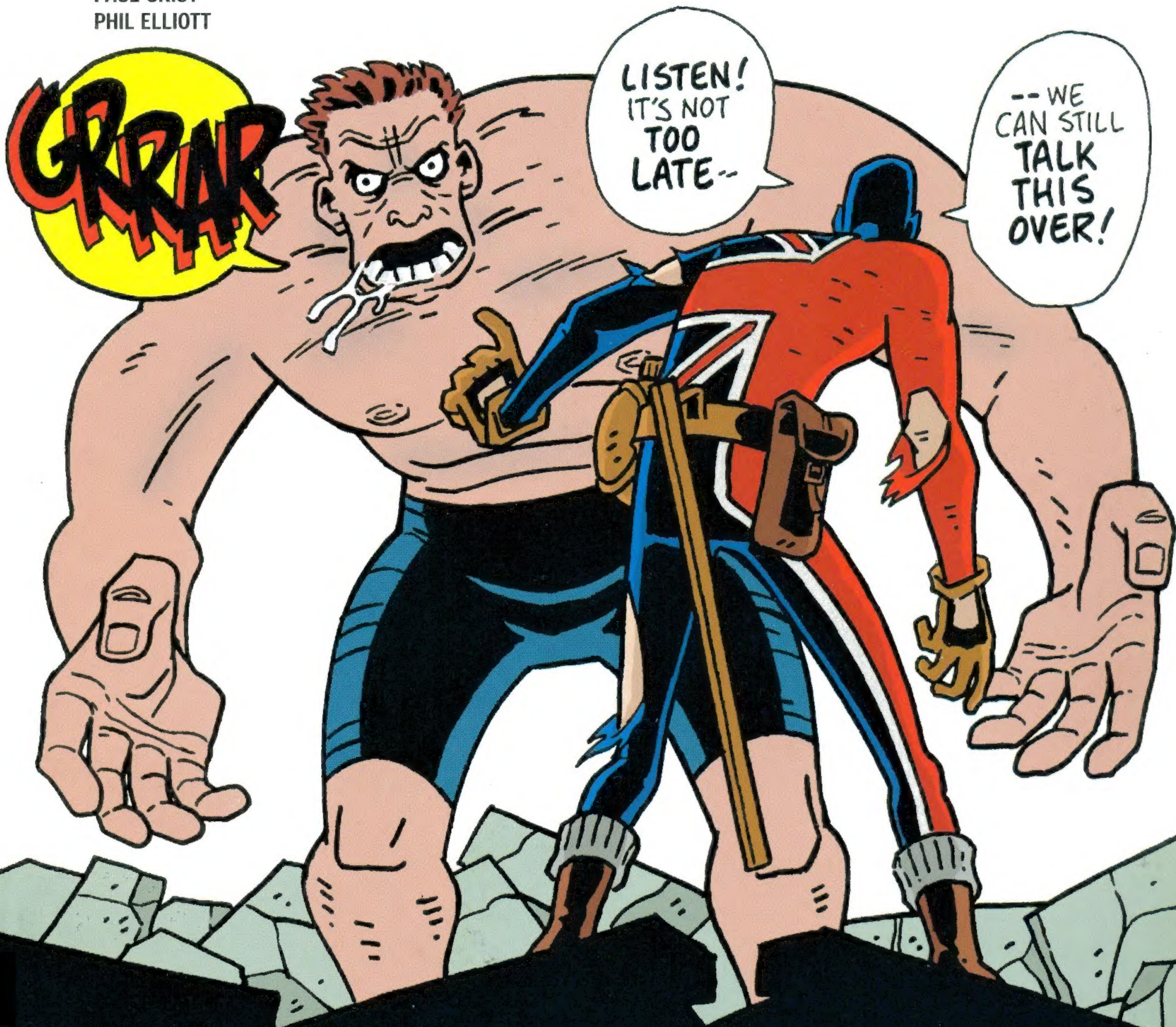
BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!

JACK STAFF

image

2 APR \$2.95
\$4.50 CAN

PAUL GRIST
PHIL ELLIOTT



THIS IS THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON
EVER DEVELOPED BY THE BRITISH ARMY

HURRICANE

AND IT'S JUST HIT CASTLETOWN!



image[®]

COMICS PRESENTS

JACK STAFF[™]

PAUL GRIST
WRITER / ARTIST

PHIL ELLIOTT
COLOURS

FOR IMAGE COMICS

JIM VALENTINO
PUBLISHER

ERIC STEPHENSON
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

BRETT EVANS
ART DIRECTOR

CINDIE ESPINOZA
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

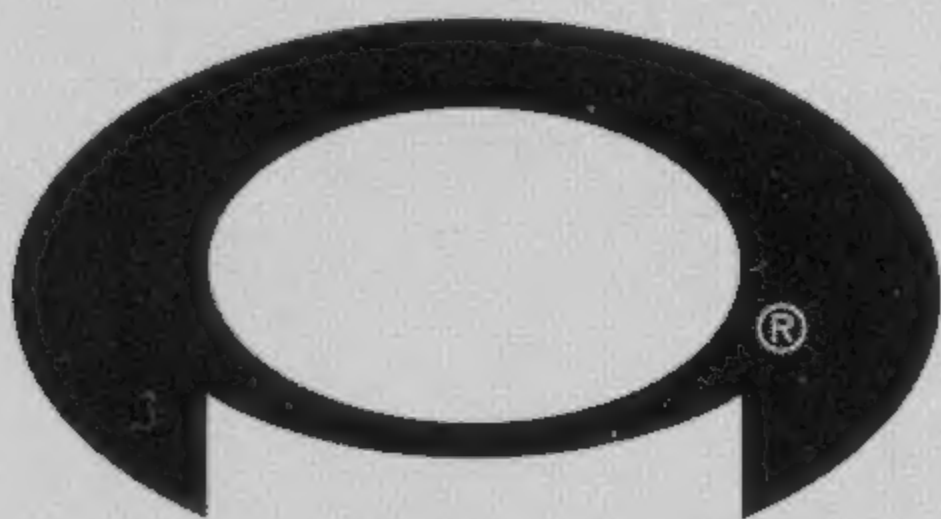
TIM HEGARTY
BOOK TRADE COORDINATOR

BRENT BRAUN
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

TRACI HALE
CONTROLLER/FOREIGN LICENSING

ALLEN HUI
WEB DEVELOPER

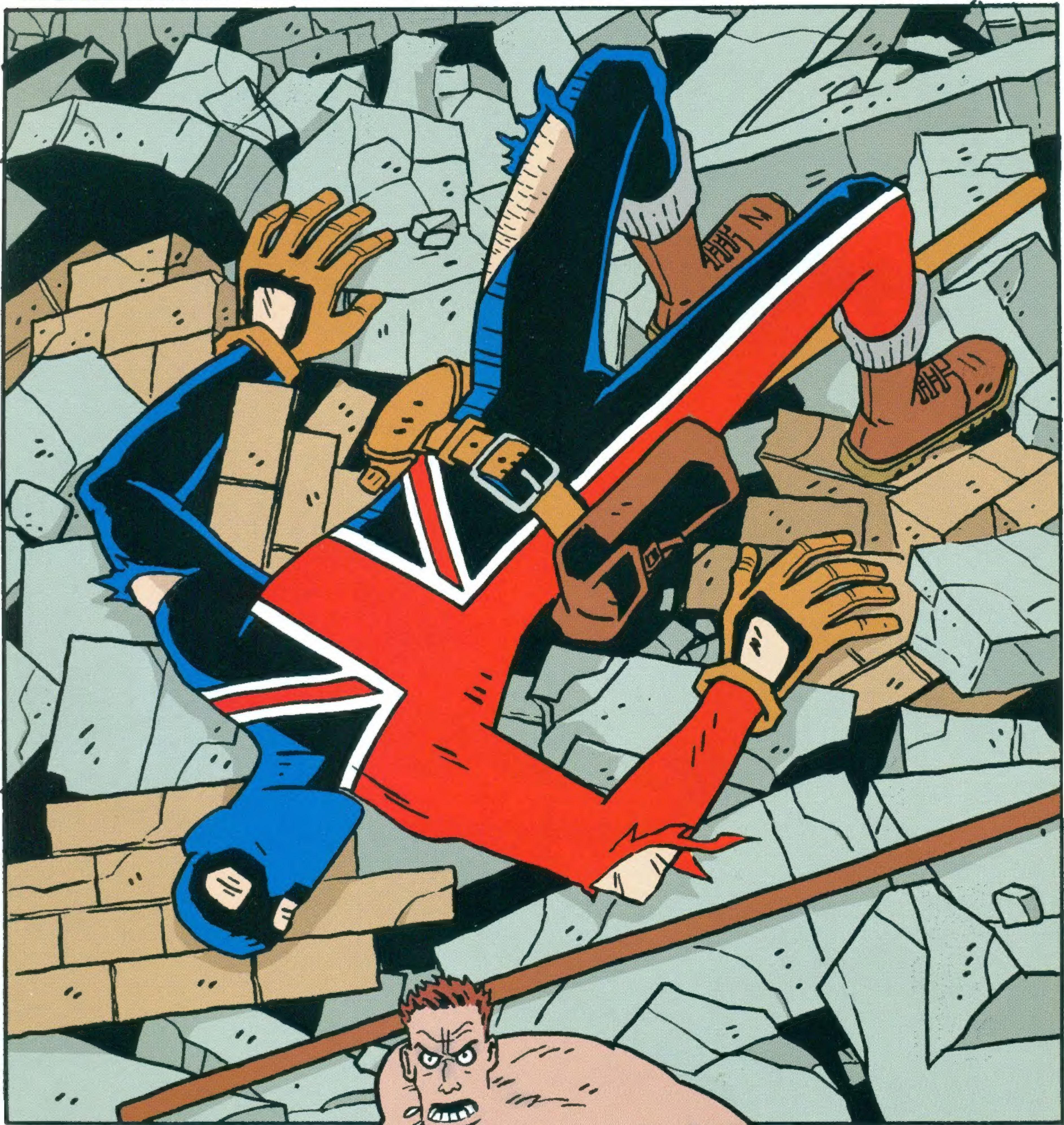
PETER MASON HAUGE
TRAFFIC



WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM



TWENTY YEARS AGO ---

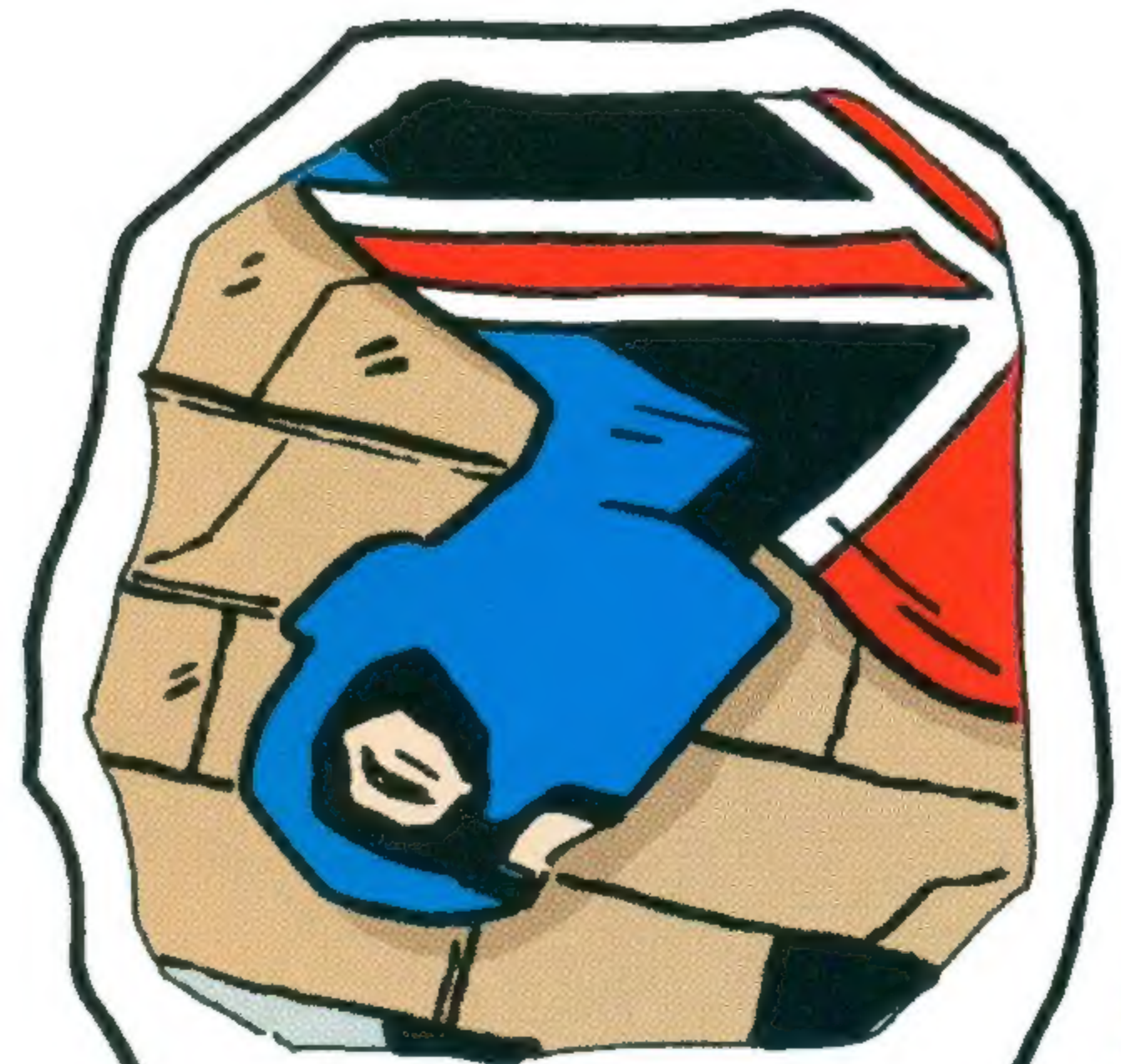


JACK STAFF -
BRITAIN'S GREATEST
HERO - FOUGHT A
BRUTAL MONSTER
ON THE STREETS OF
CASTLETOWN.



HIS ONLY WEAPON
A SIMPLE WOODEN
STAVE, HE FOUGHT
A TWO FISTED
RAGING FURY!

TO BE HONEST, IT
WASN'T MUCH OF A
FIGHT.



-- COME ON --



-- WAKE UP --



-- ON YOUR FEET
SOLDIER!



WHO? WHAT?

HE'S THE MAN WHO HOLDS
THE KEY TO JACK STAFF'S
PAST --- AND FUTURE!

THE MYSTERIOUS

MISTER GREEN

ONLY
THE FIGHT
WAS
LOST.



YOU.





HELEN MORGAN • BEN KULMER • HARRY CRANE

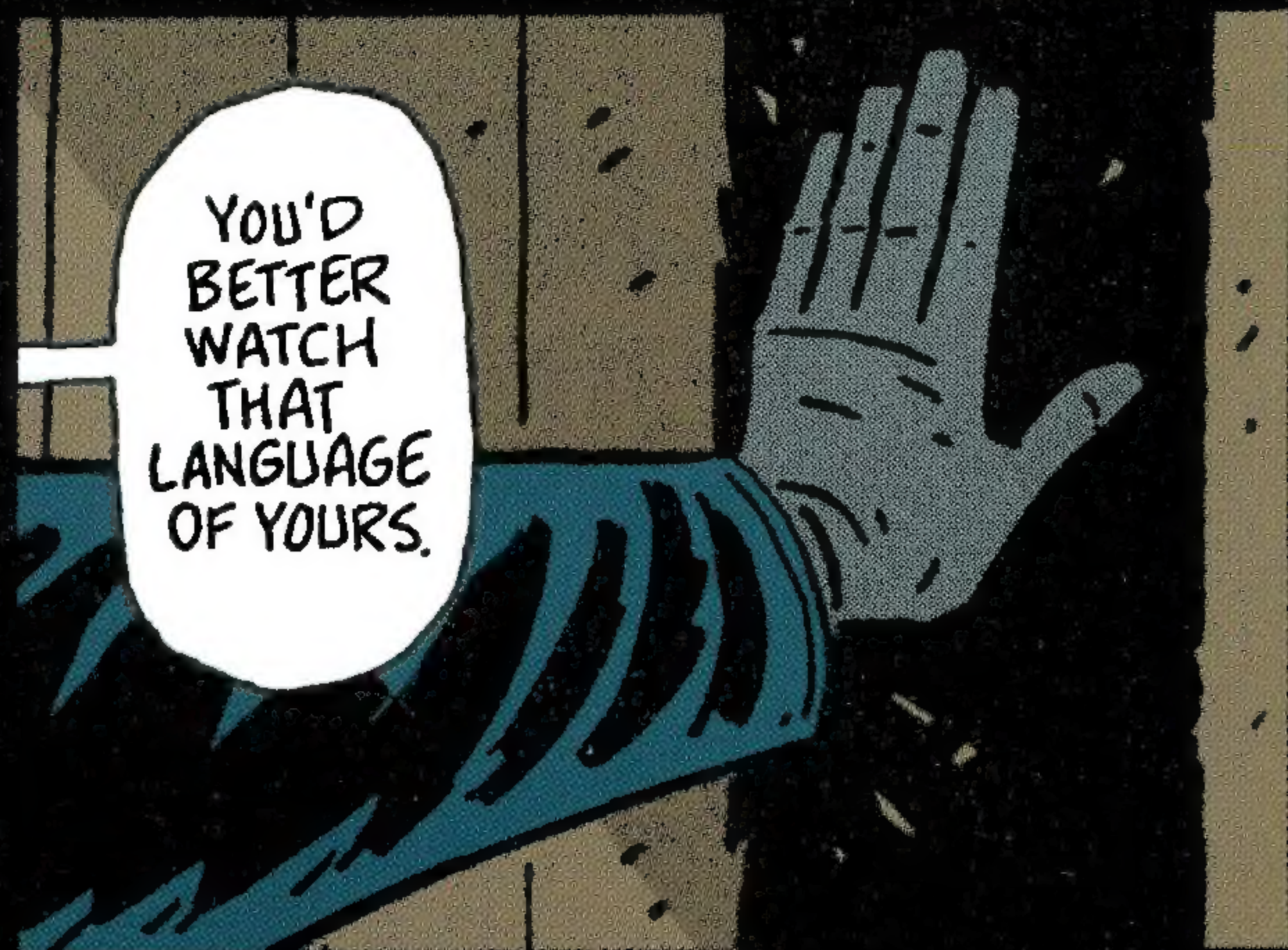
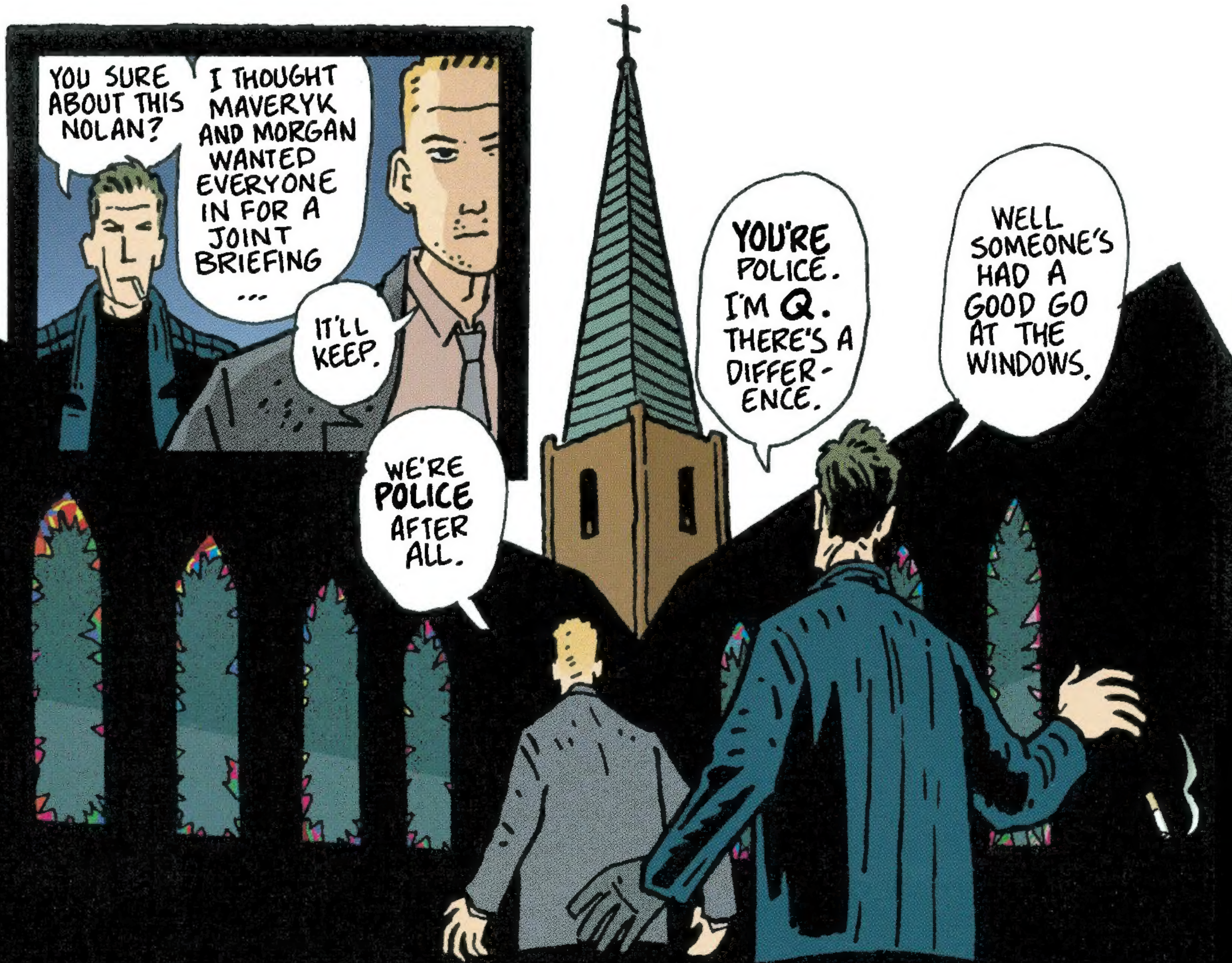
THREE UNUSUAL PEOPLE CAUGHT UP IN A
WORLD WHERE THE BIZARRE IS COMMONPLACE.
THEY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GATE
BETWEEN **REALITY** AND **UNREALITY**.
THEY ARE THE **INVESTIGATORS** OF THE
UNEXPLAINABLE.

THE QUESTION MARK CRIMES.



2. BEN KULMER





BLOODY
HELL!

AFTER
ALL WE
ARE IN
CHURCH
NOW.

THEY
CERTAINLY
MADE A
MESS IN
HERE.

STRONG
TOO.

THESE
PEWS
WERE
FIXED
TO THE
FLOOR.

GRRH?

STILL

LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE
LONG GONE
NOW.

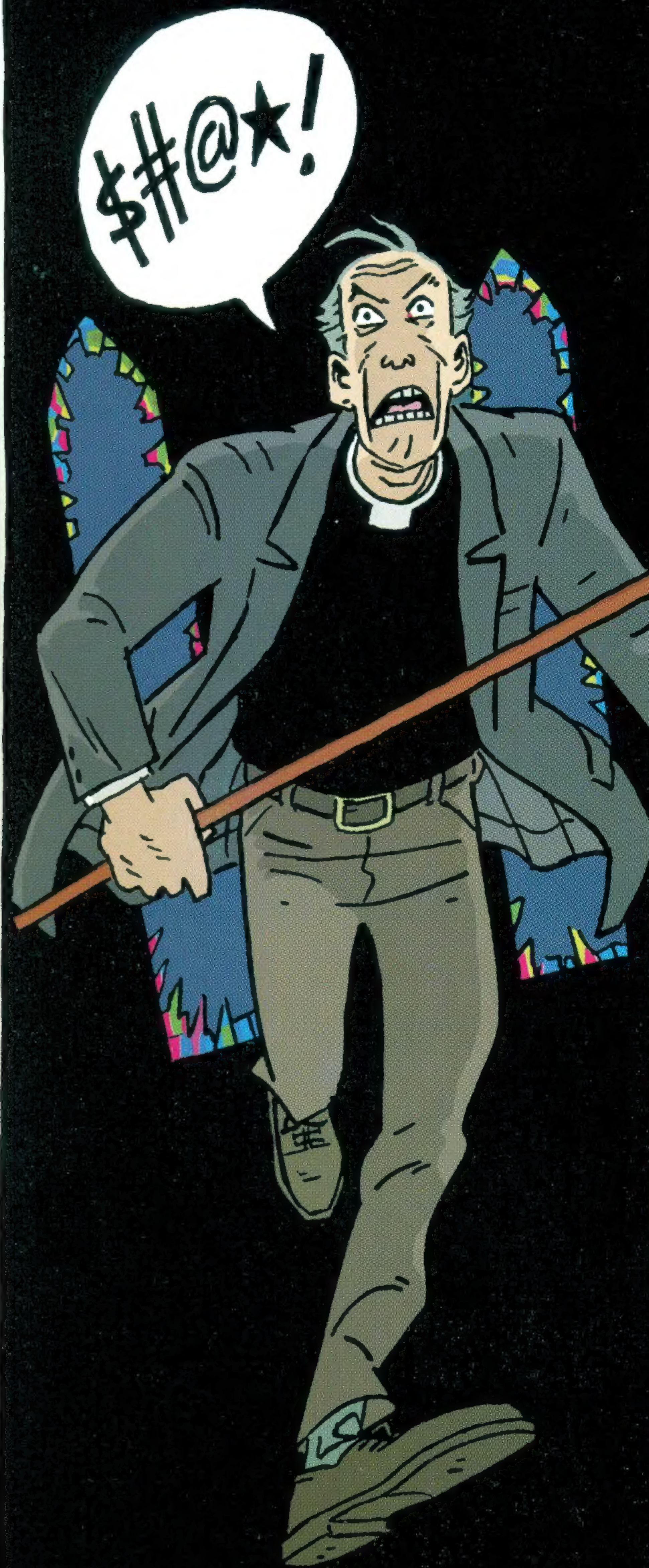
NO. THIS
ISN'T
RIGHT
...

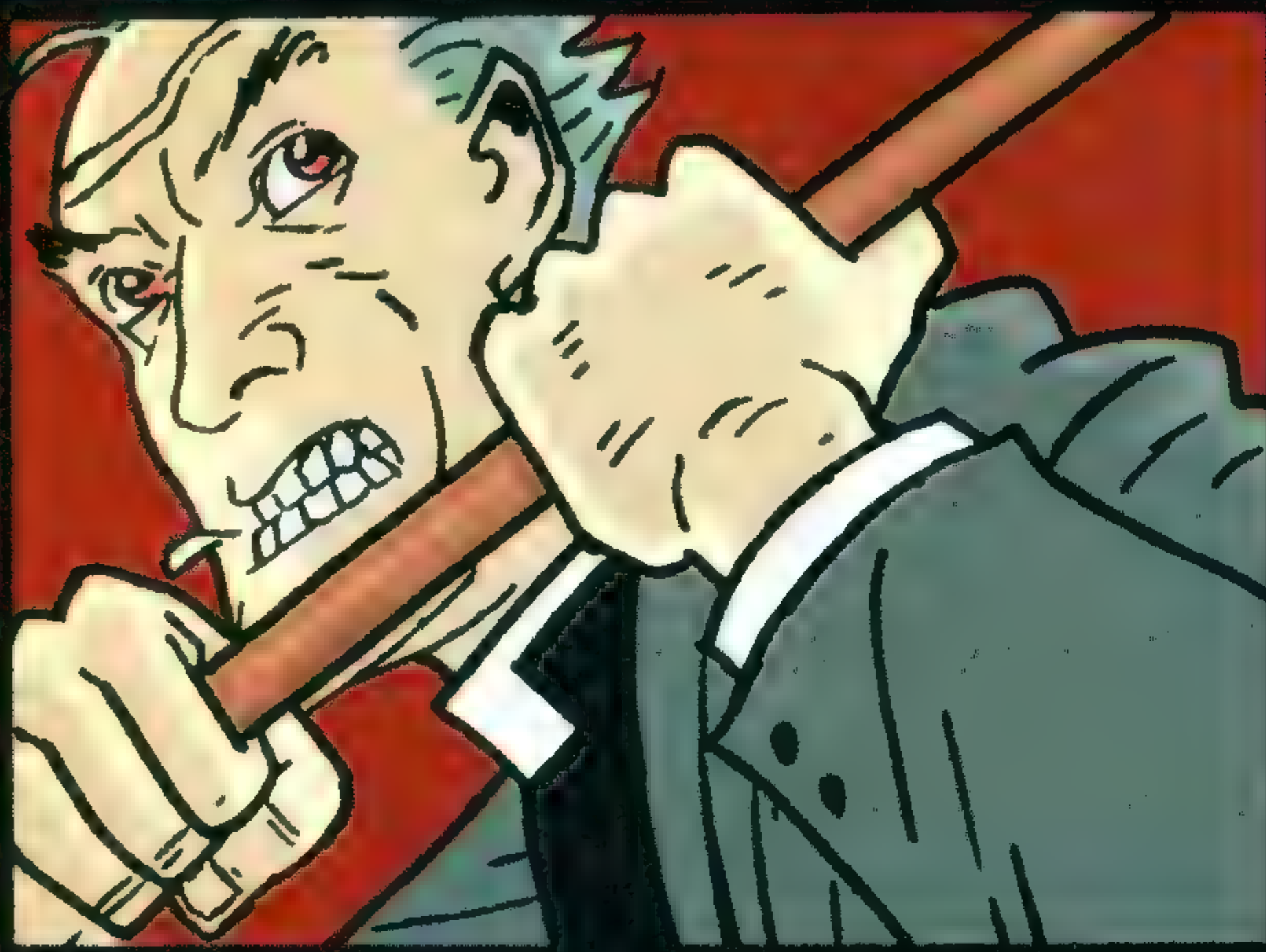
THAT
DOOR WAS
BOLTED
FROM THE
INSIDE.

WHO
EVER
DID
THIS...

...IS
STILL
HERE.

RAARGH!



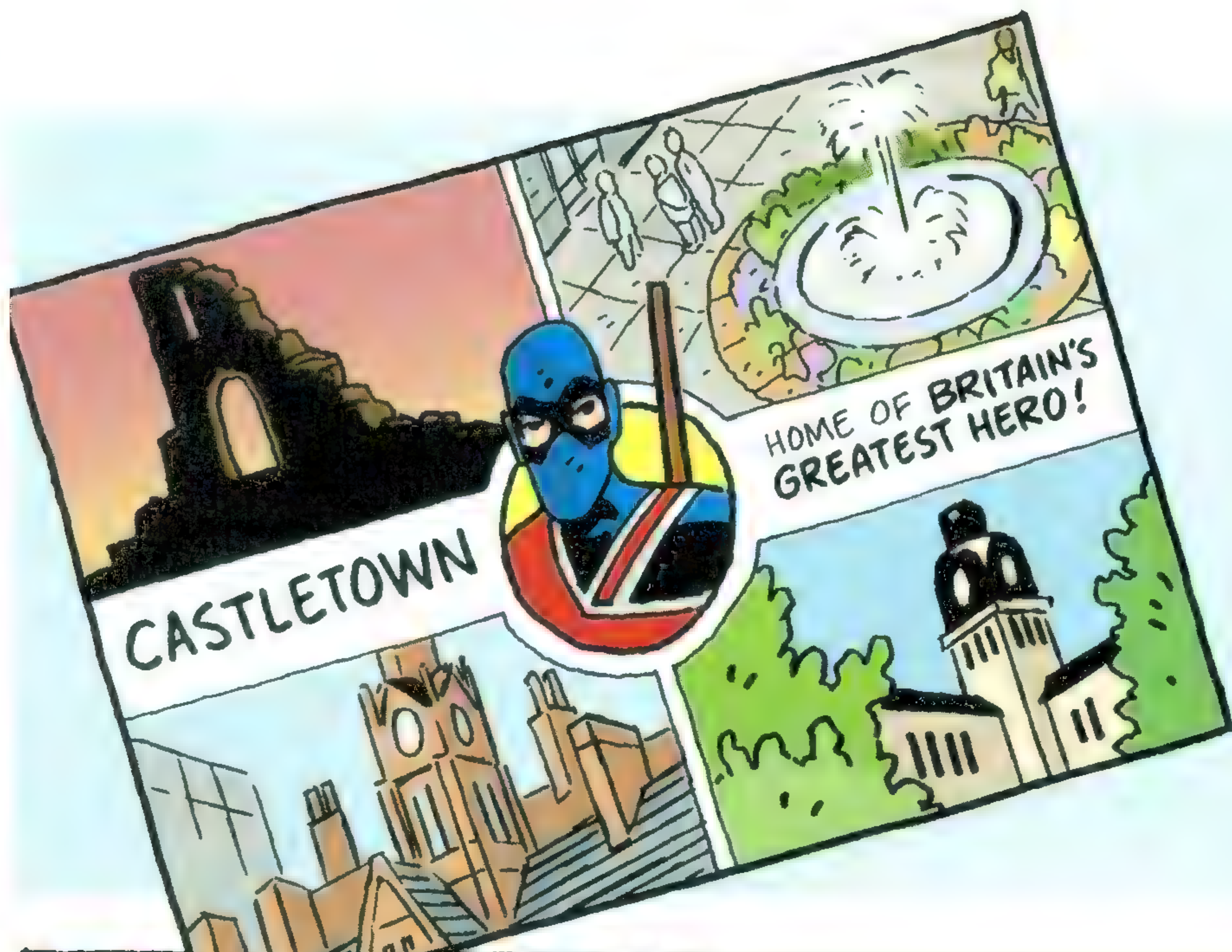


YOU'LL
GO TO
HELL FOR
THAT,
Y'KNOW?

FOR WHAT?
FLOORING
THE
VICAR?
HA!



BELIEVE
ME, THAT'S
THE LEAST
OF MY
SINS.



CASTLETOWN

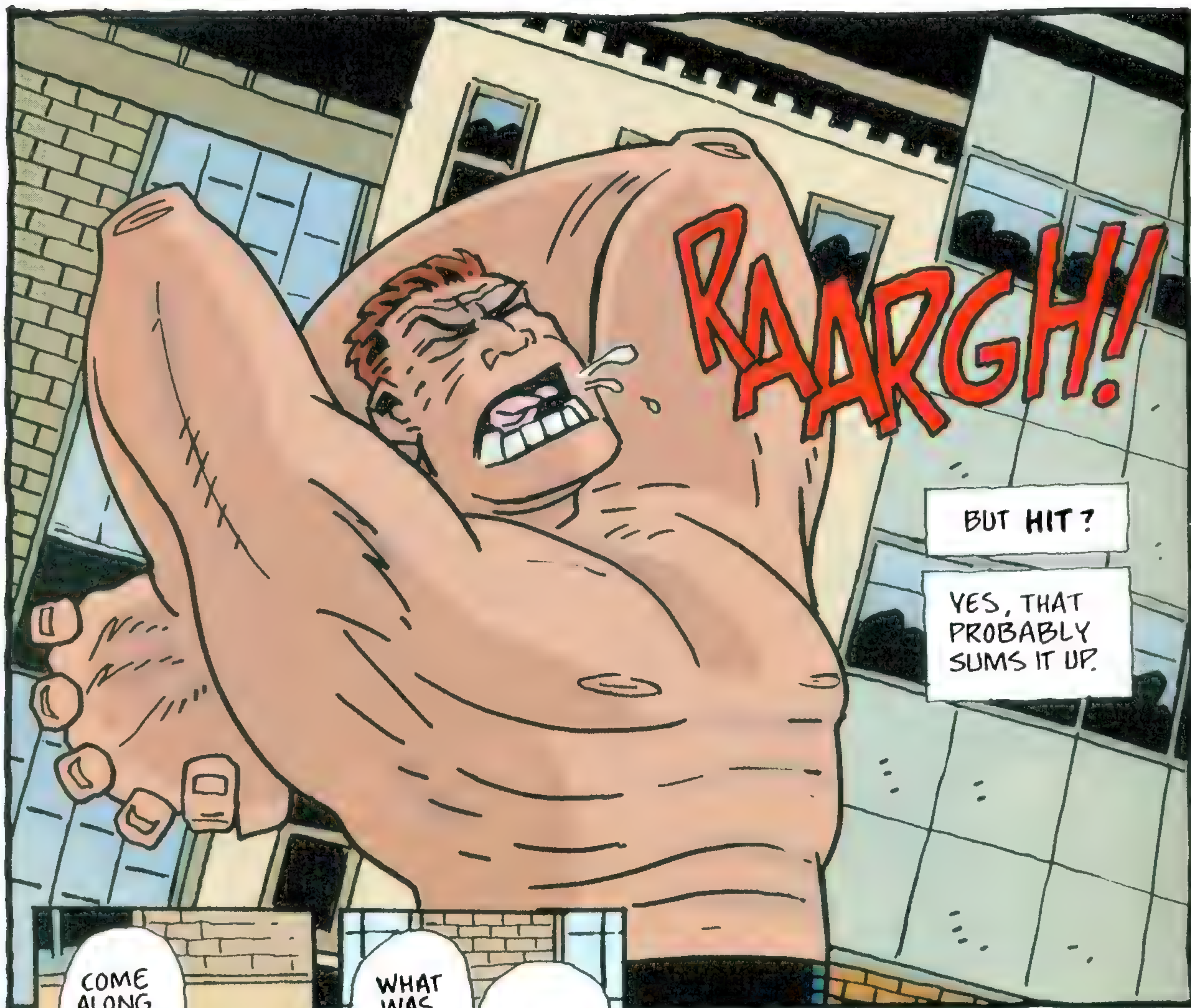
THE RUINS OF A 13TH CENTURY CASTLE DOMINATE THE SKY LINE OF THIS HISTORIC CITY IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

TWENTY YEARS AGO THE CITY ITSELF WAS NEARLY BROUGHT TO RUIN WHEN AN **EARTHQUAKE** HIT THE AREA.



WELL, NOT REALLY. AN **EARTHQUAKE**, THAT WAS JUST THE OFFICIAL STORY THEY PUT OUT. IN TRUTH IT WAS MORE LIKE A

HURRICANE



BUT HIT?

YES, THAT
PROBABLY
SUMS IT UP.



COME
ALONG
REBECCA
...

don't
wanta
go
home



WHAT
WAS
THAT?

THUNDER?

wanta
ICE
CREAM!



RUMMBULL

BOOM

AT TWO THIRTY EIGHT ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN JUNE, A HURRICANE HIT CASTLETOWN.



mister
bunny's
a bit
SCARED
MUMMY
...

THAT'S
ALRIGHT
REBECCA
.. WE'LL
SOON
BE
HOME
...

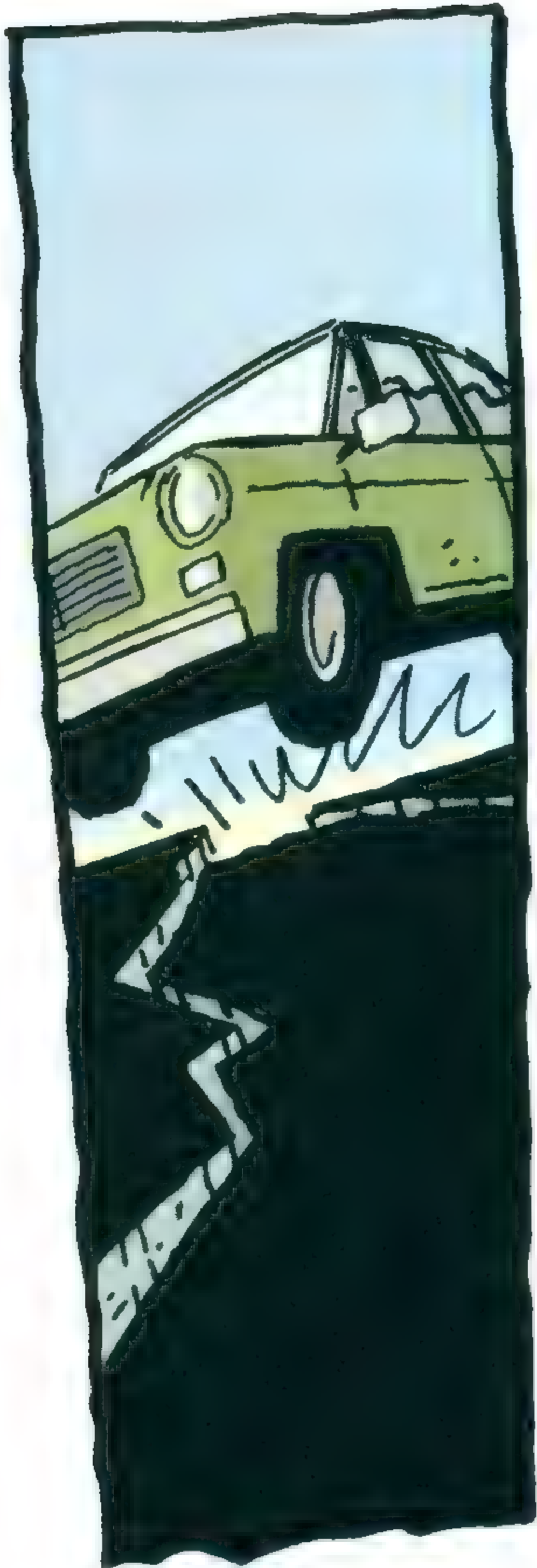
mister
bunny
says he'd
rather
hav a
ICE CREAM

C'MON
...

C'MON
...

PLEASE
...

CHUGA
CHUGA



MISTER BUNNY!

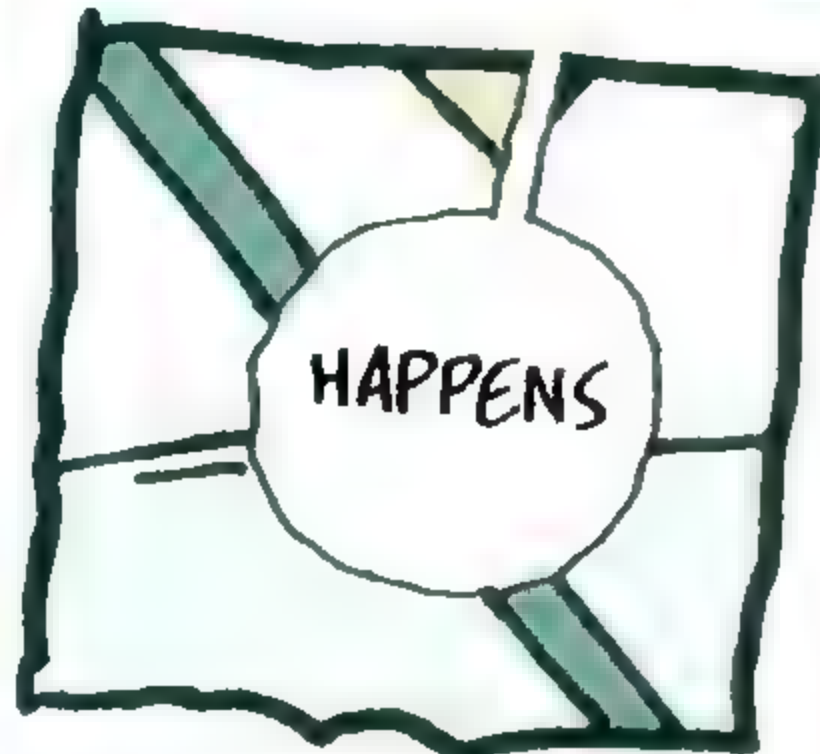
I left mister bunny in the car!

LEAVE IT REBECCA, THERE ISN'T TIME!

WE NEED TO GET AWAY NOW--



BEFORE SOMETHING REALLY BAD



HAPPENS



wanta go home now ...

I'm being chased by monsters.

I try to escape but whichever way I run, I'm surrounded. They circle round me, edging nearer. Closer with every step.

Then they all join hands and start dancing round me. And they sing.

You're the one that I want, whoo woo whoo

Then I wake up.



BECKY BURDOCK
VAMPIRE REPORTER

AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO
BOB WALKER
ON ONE OH THREE
CASTLE FM--

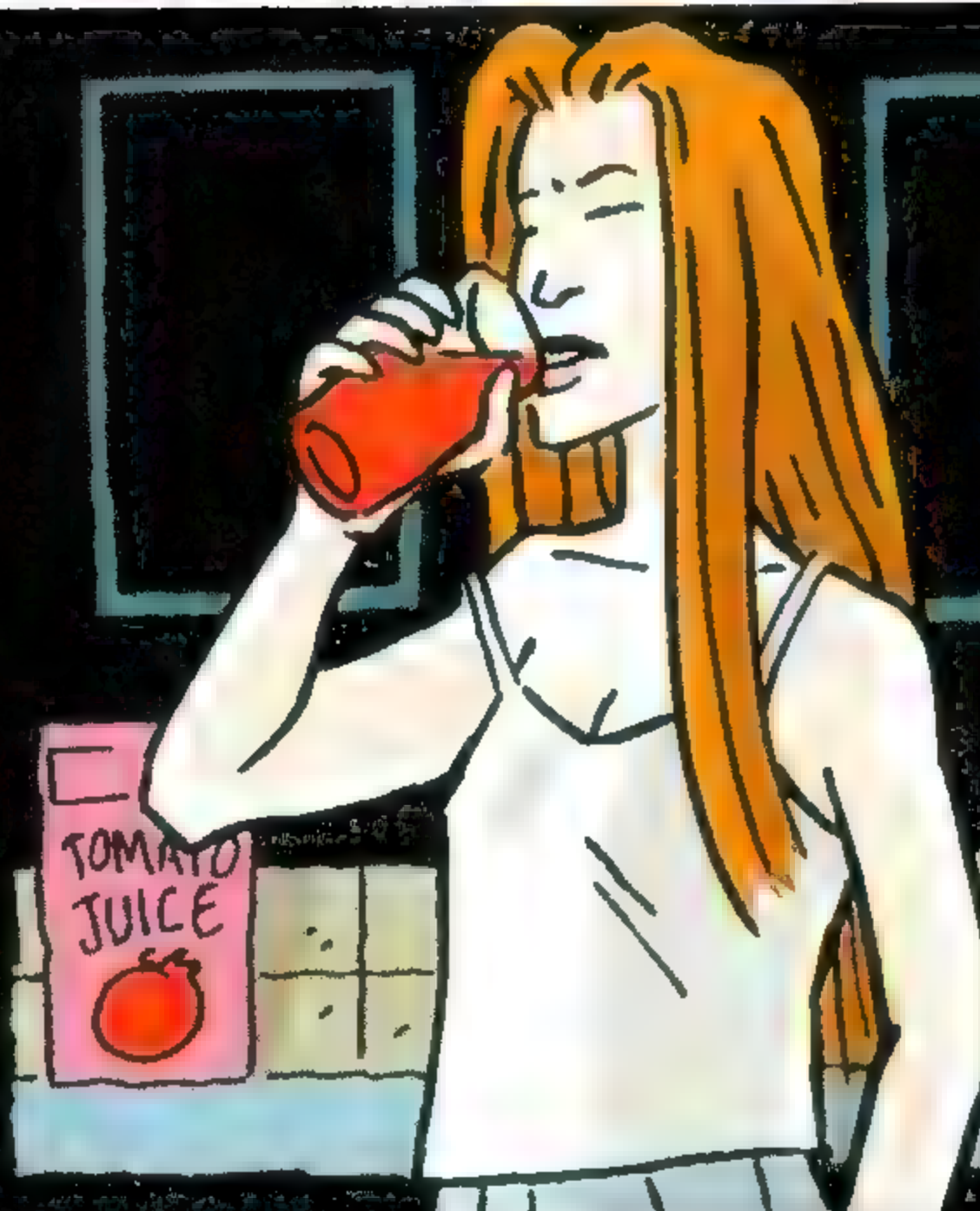
**GOOD
MORNING
CASTLE
TOWN**



AND ON **BOB'S
BREAKFAST BANTER**
THIS MORNING, WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT THE
DRAMATIC RETURN OF

**TOM TOM
THE ROBOT MAN**

WHICH LEFT THE CITY FACING
A MILLION POUND BILL TO REPAIR
THE **DESTRUCTION** CAUSED.



I wake up.

I'm still dead.

I'm not really a
morning person.

SO -- **SUPERHEROES**
-- ARE THEY JUST
SUPERVILLAINS
WITH BETTER P.R.?

WE'LL BE TAKING
YOUR CALLS NEXT!

**RING
RING**



YES?

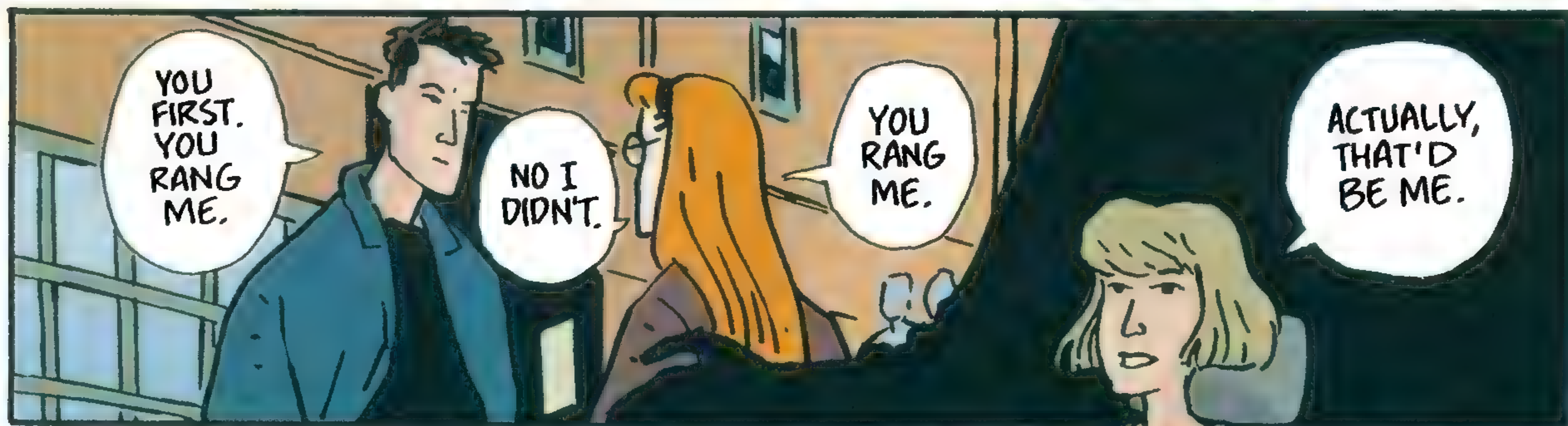
BEEP

**I GOT CHILLS
-- THEY'RE
MULTIPLYING
-- AND I'M LOSIN'
CONTROL--**

BECKY?
IT'S ME,
JOHN
SMITH.

IT'S ABOUT
**TOM
TOM.**
WE NEED
TO TALK.





This is Patricia Carthy.

She's not what she seems to be either.



IT'S THE STUFF
OF DRAMA—
THE MONSTER!

INNOCENT
VICTIMS!

AND THE
HERO
RIDING
INTO
BATTLE!

BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
MISSING.

MUSIC.

JACK STAFF

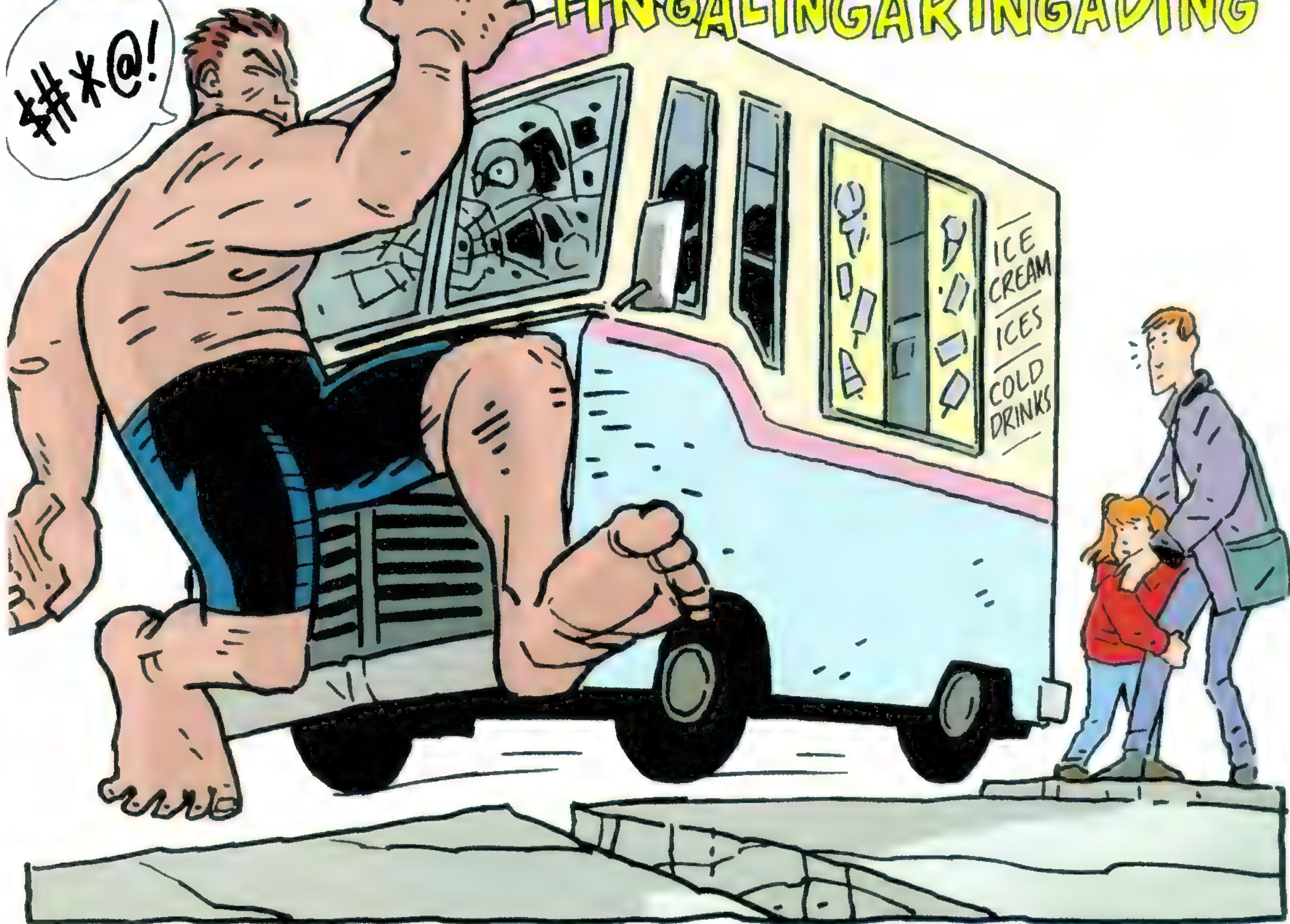
THERE
OUGHT
TO BE
MUSIC.

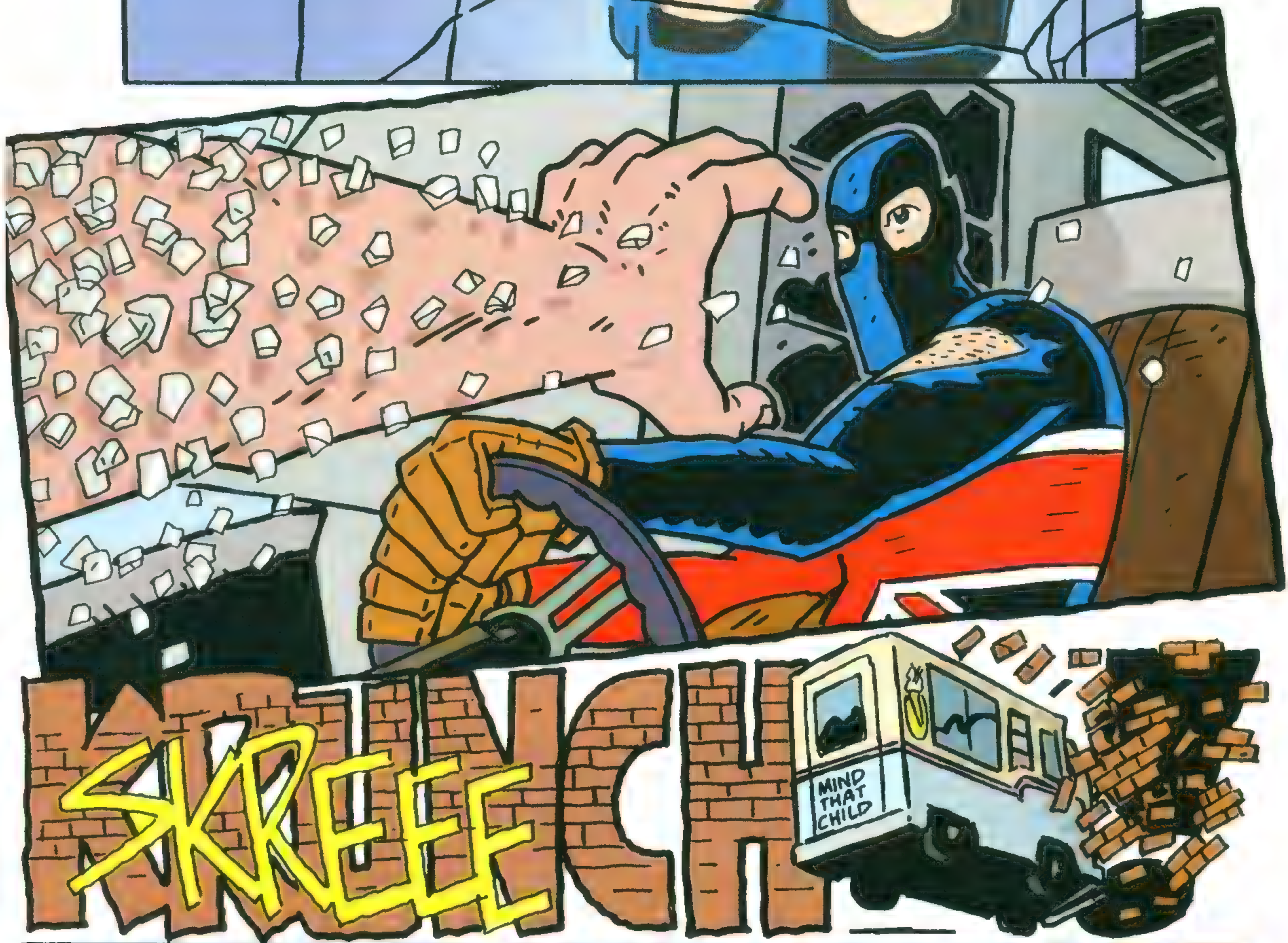
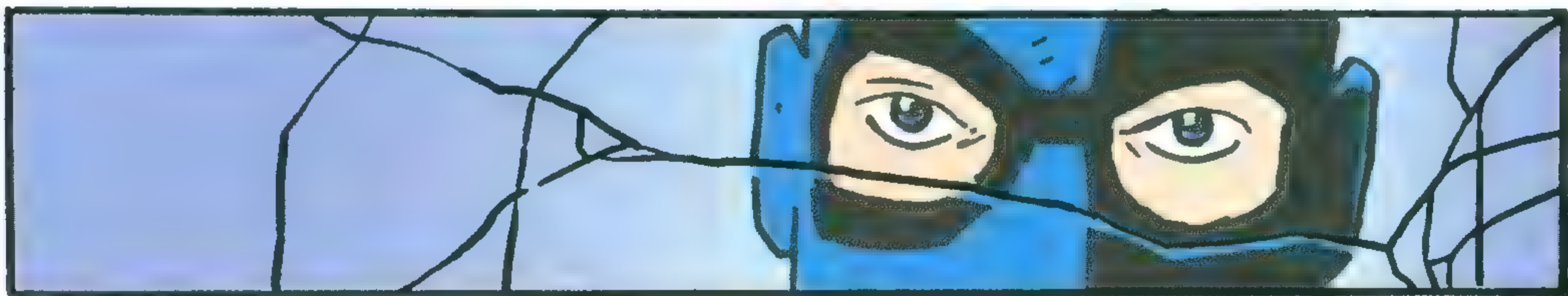
RRGH?

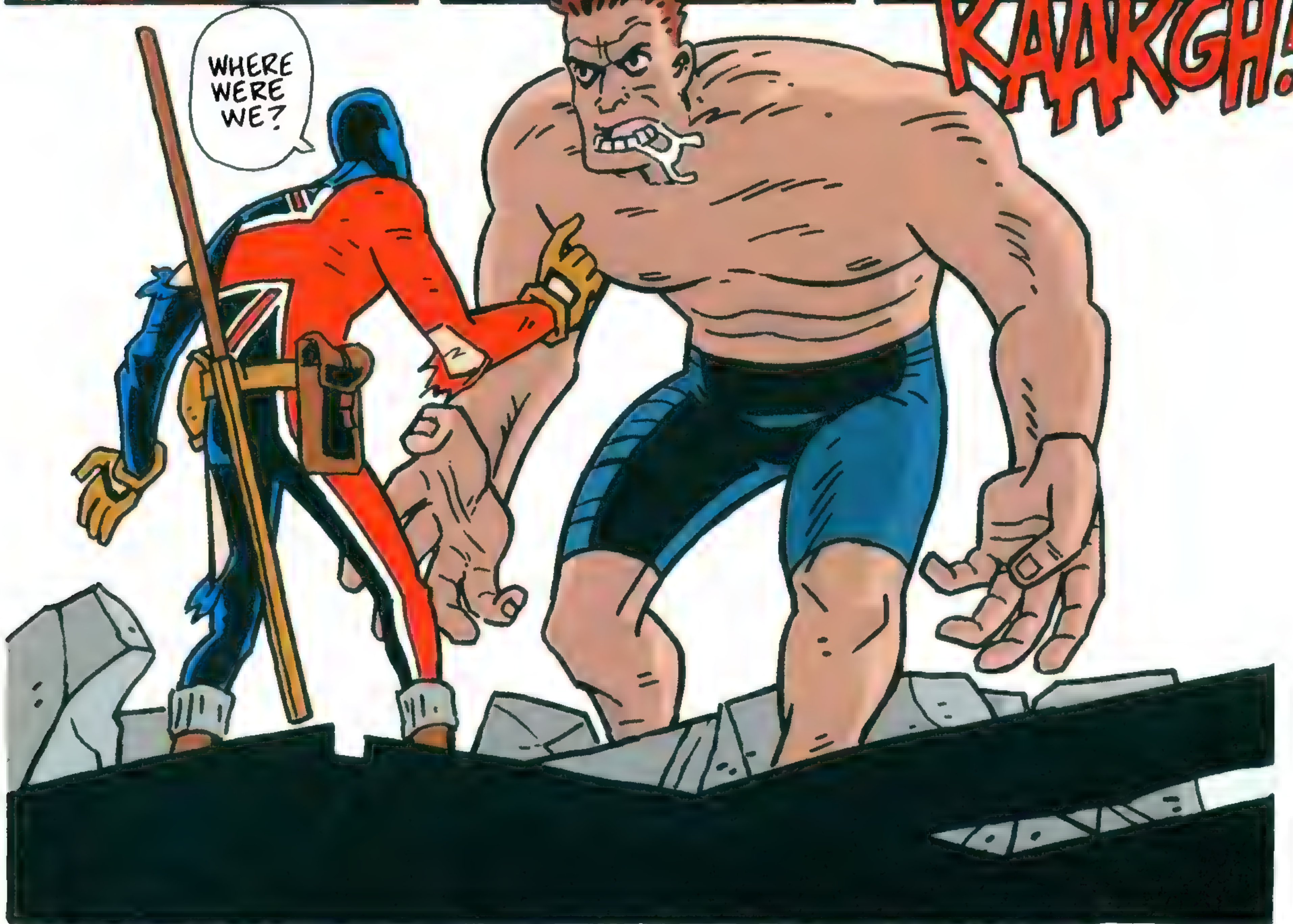
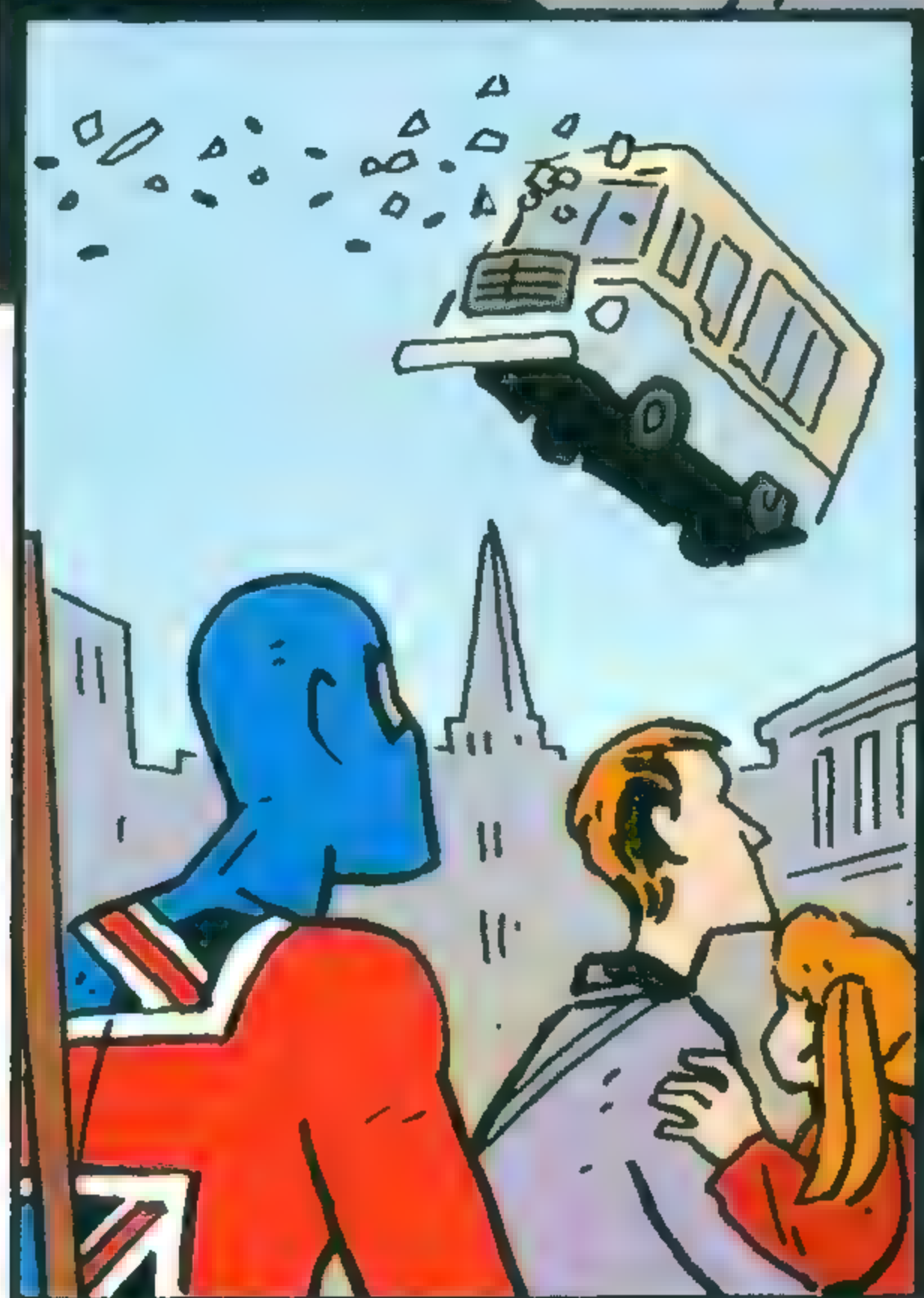
LOUD
MUSIC!

TINGALINGARINGADING

##*@!







ROBOT RAGE!

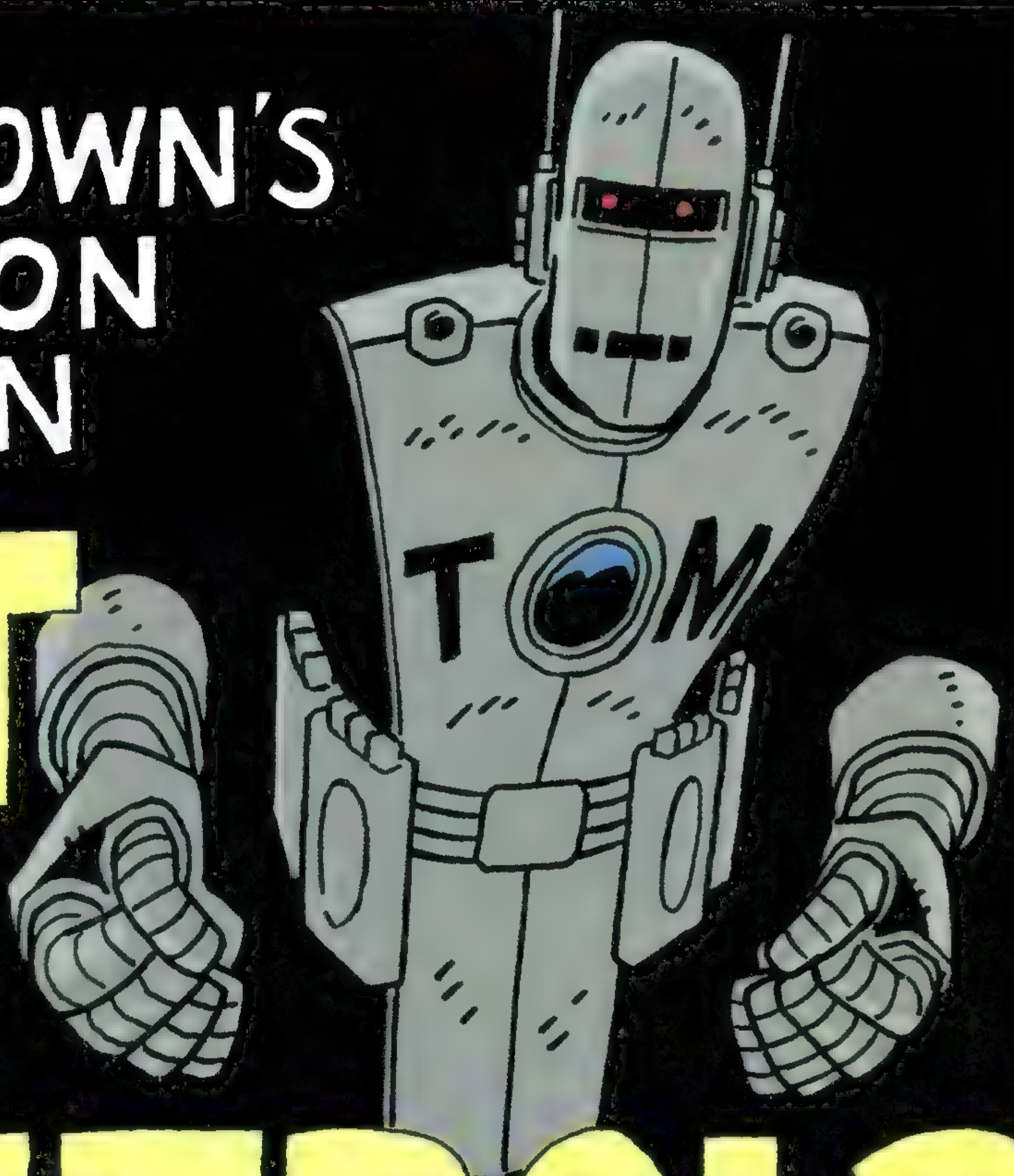
THE WORLDS
Press



**VILLAIN IN
HOSPITAL
AFTER CITY
CENTRE
RAMPAGE!**

IS CASTLETOWN'S
CAST IRON
CHAMPION

**OUT
OF
CONTROL?**

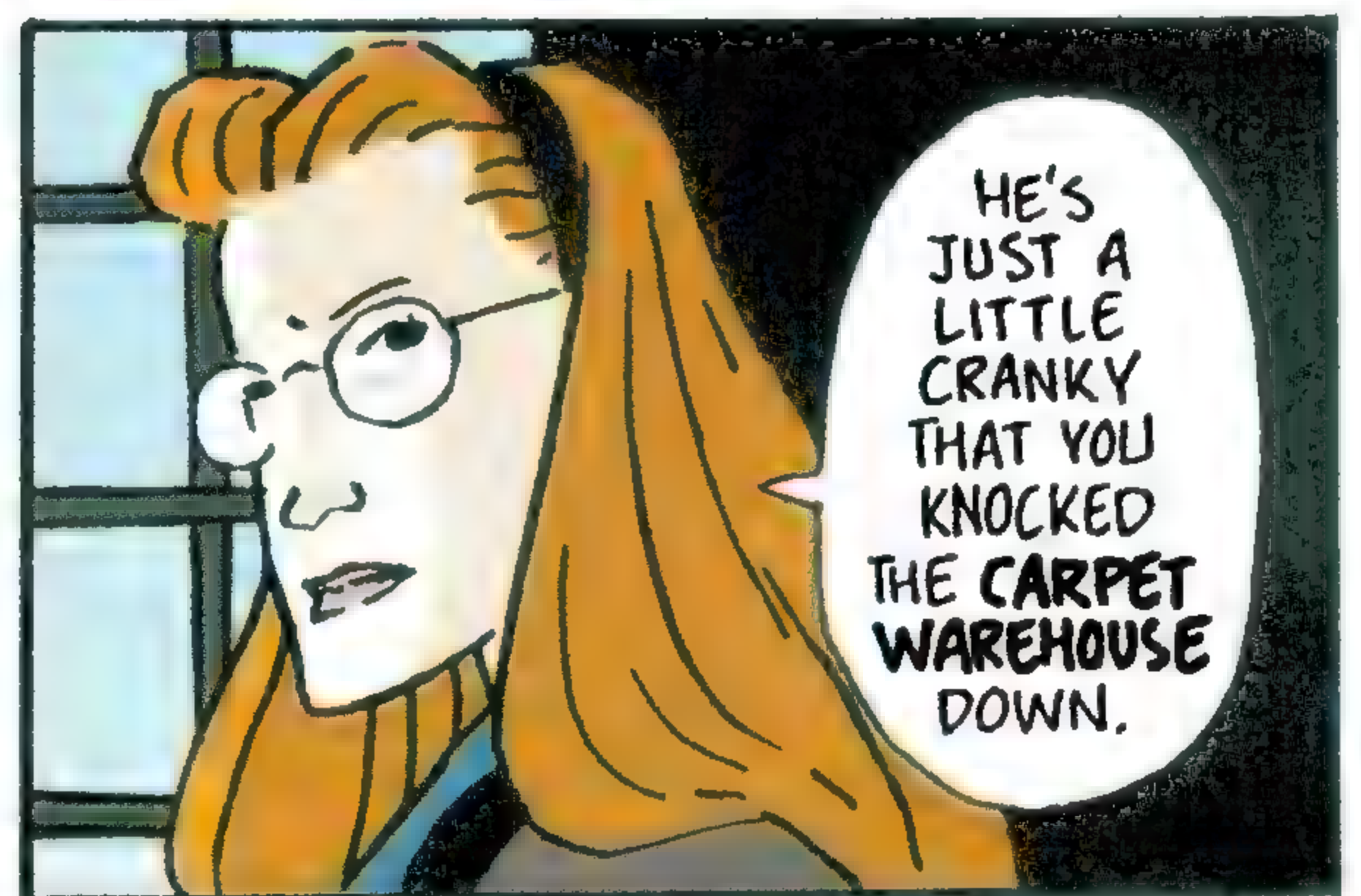
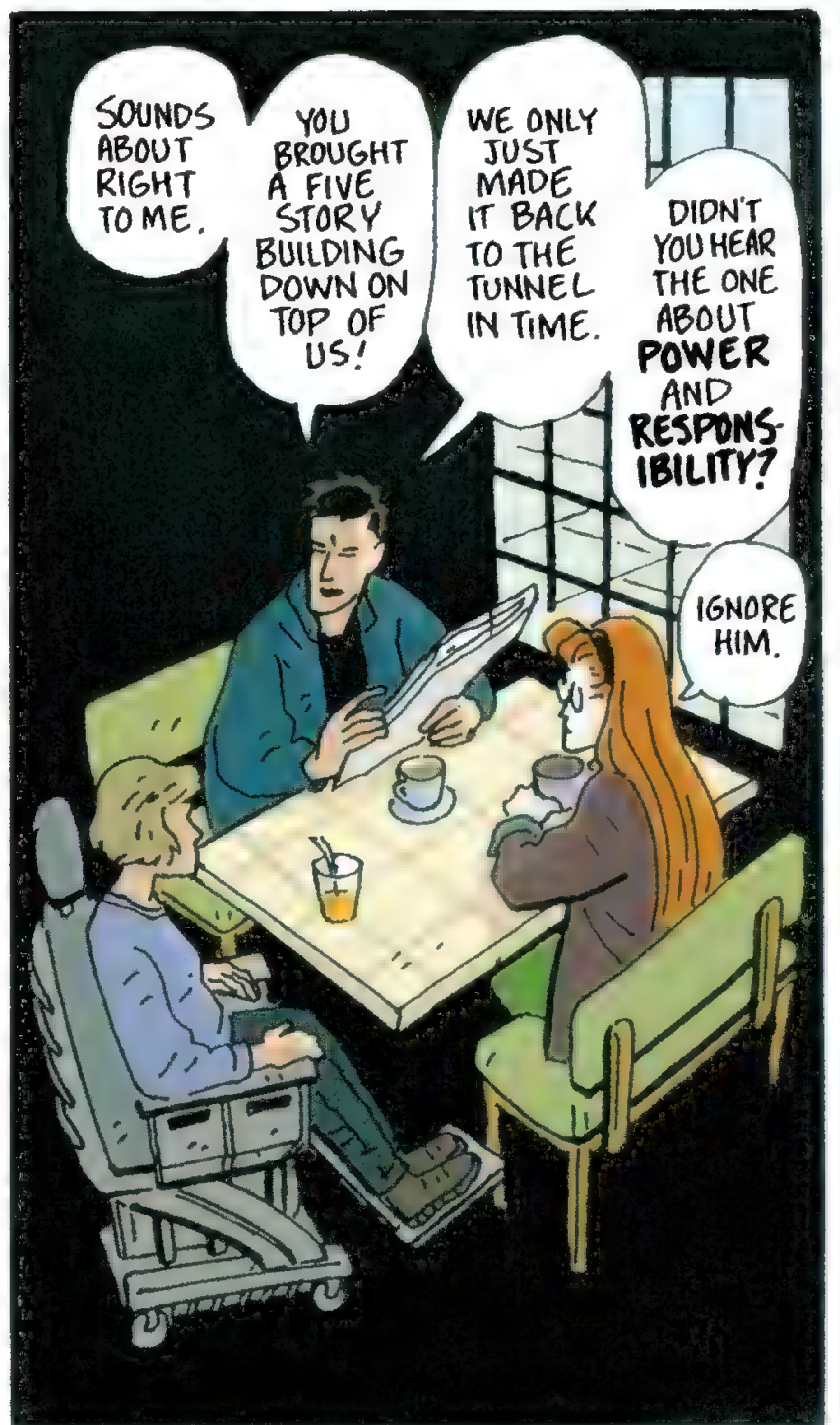


Full report inside by **BECKY BURDOCK** Vampire Reporter



TOM TOM

THE ROBOT MAN





YOU
DON'T
KNOW
ME--

SO WHY
ARE YOU
WRITING
THESE
LIES?

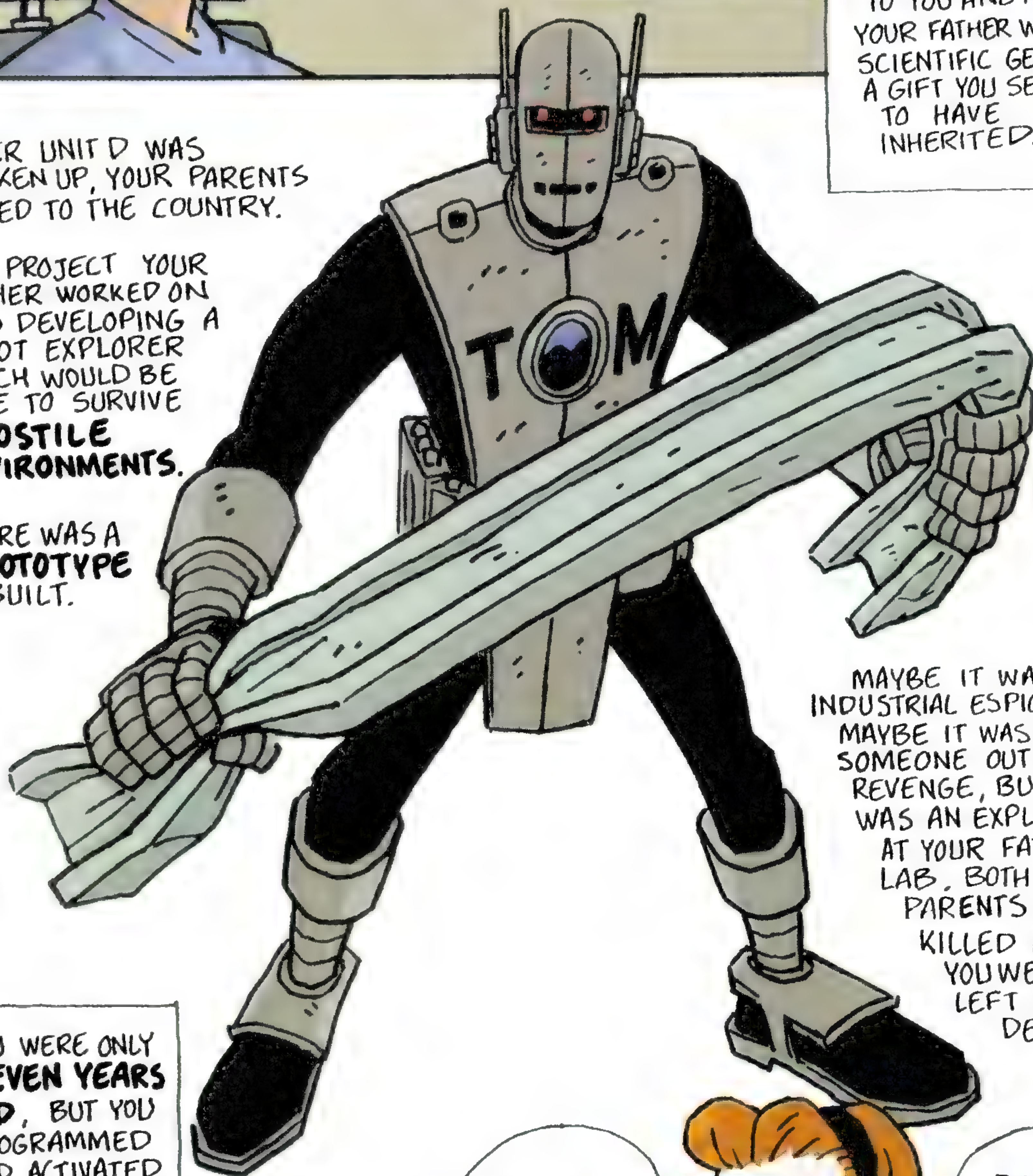
I **DO** KNOW YOU
PATRICIA. YOUR
PARENTS WERE
RUSSELL CARTHY
AND SANDRA LEE.
THEY MET WHEN
THEY WORKED
FOR A GROUP
CALLED **UNIT D**.

UNIT D WAS A
SPECIALIST GROUP
WHICH TARGETED
THOSE CRIMINALS
BEYOND THE REACH
OF THE REGULAR
POLICE FORCE.
SUPER VILLAINS
TO YOU AND ME.
YOUR FATHER WAS A
SCIENTIFIC GENIUS.
A GIFT YOU SEEM
TO HAVE
INHERITED.

AFTER **UNIT D** WAS
BROKEN UP, YOUR PARENTS
MOVED TO THE COUNTRY.

ONE PROJECT YOUR
FATHER WORKED ON
WAS DEVELOPING A
ROBOT EXPLORER
WHICH WOULD BE
ABLE TO SURVIVE
HOSTILE
ENVIRONMENTS.

THERE WAS A
PROTOTYPE
BUILT.

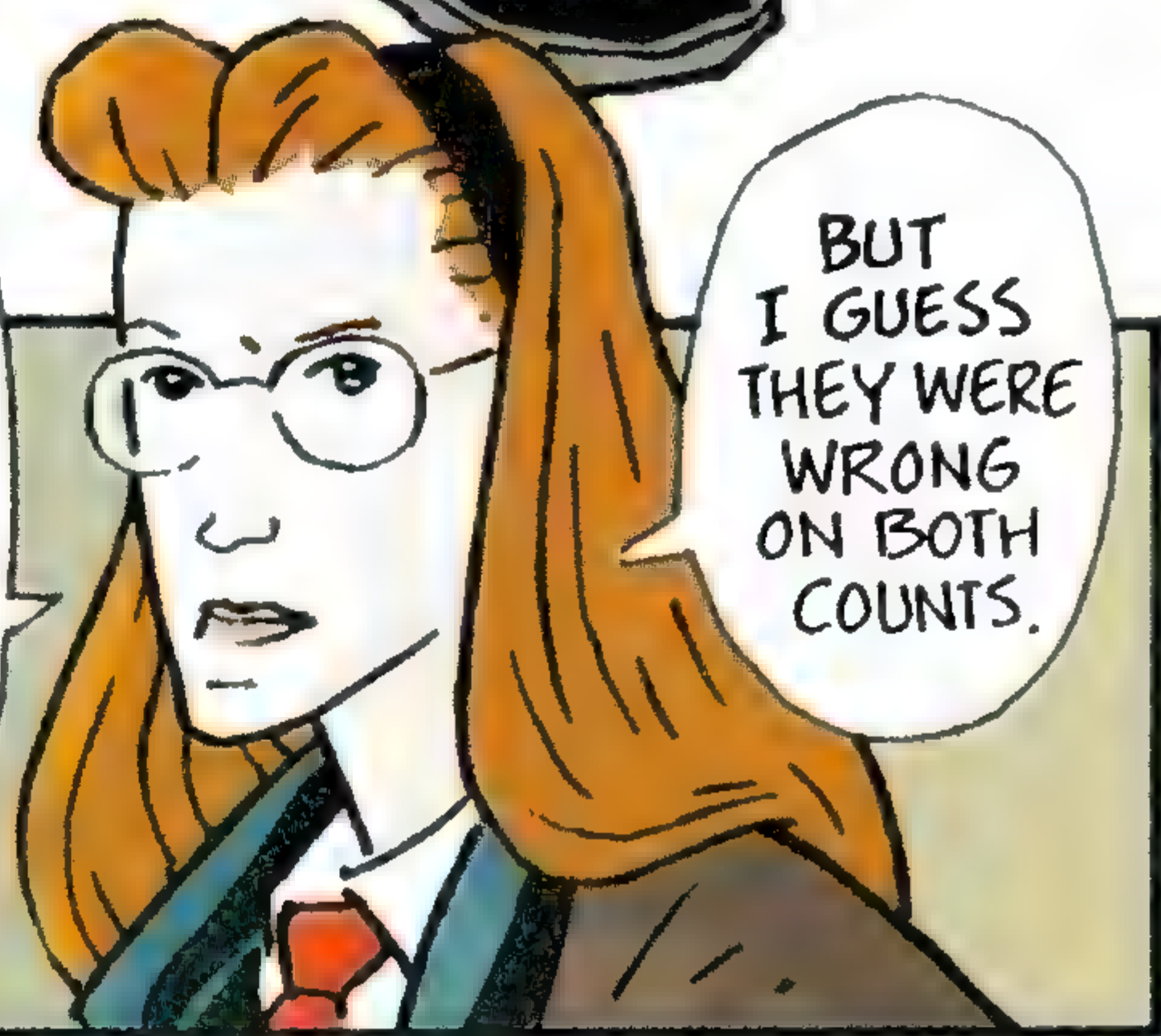


MAYBE IT WAS
INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE
MAYBE IT WAS JUST
SOMEONE OUT FOR
REVENGE, BUT THERE
WAS AN EXPLOSION
AT YOUR FATHER'S
LAB. BOTH YOUR
PARENTS WERE
KILLED AND
YOU WERE
LEFT FOR
DEAD.

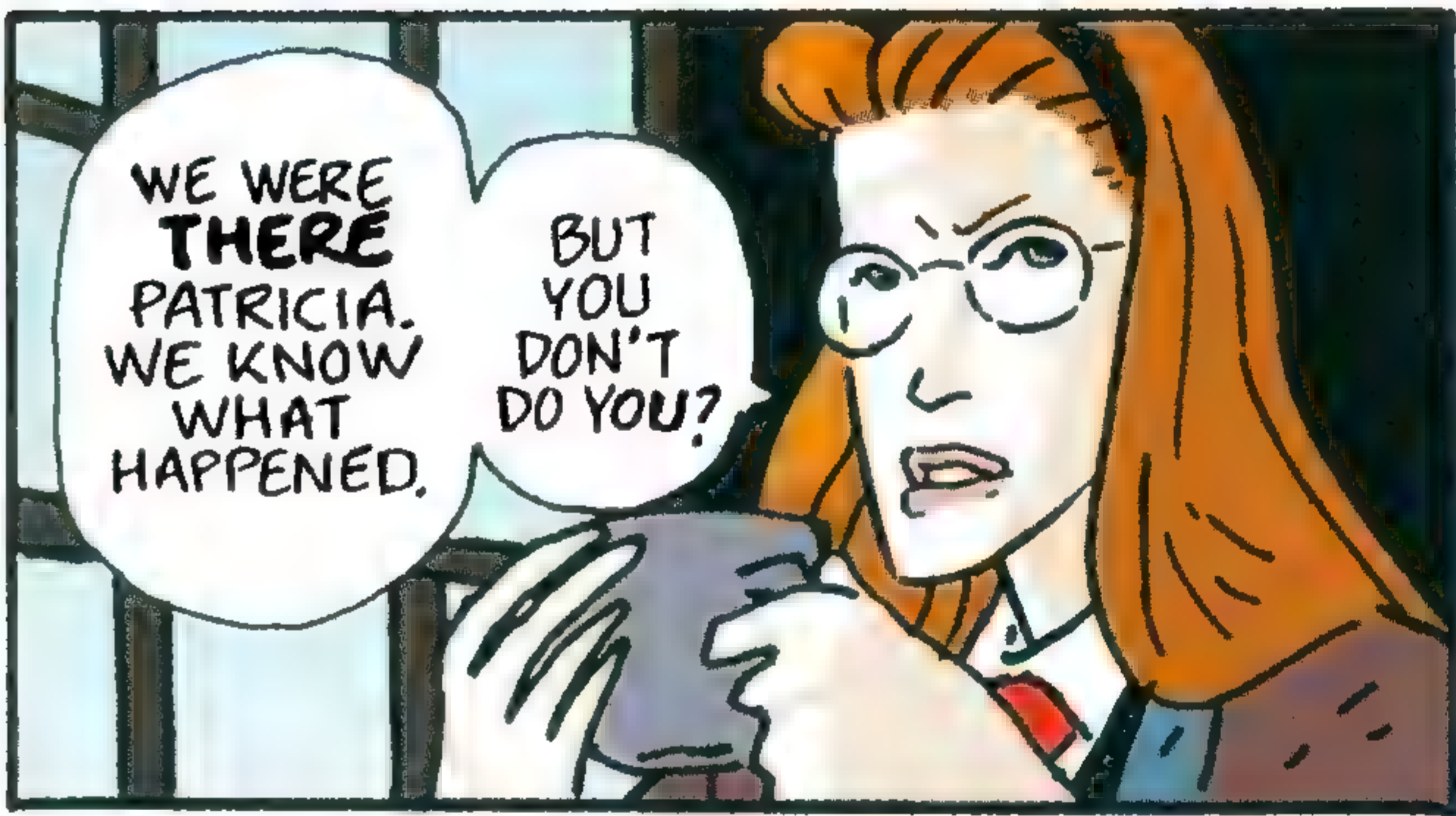
YOU WERE ONLY
ELEVEN YEARS
OLD, BUT YOU
PROGRAMMED
AND ACTIVATED
THE ROBOT TO
TRACK DOWN
THE PEOPLE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOUR
PARENTS DEATH.

SINCE THEN
TOM TOM THE
ROBOT MAN
HAS BECOME
A FAMILIAR
SIGHT IN THE
SKIES ABOVE
CASTLE TOWN.
IT'S **CAST IRON**
CHAMPION.

SOME
PEOPLE HAVE
SAID THAT
AT TIMES
TOM TOM
SEEMS MORE
MAN THAN
ROBOT.

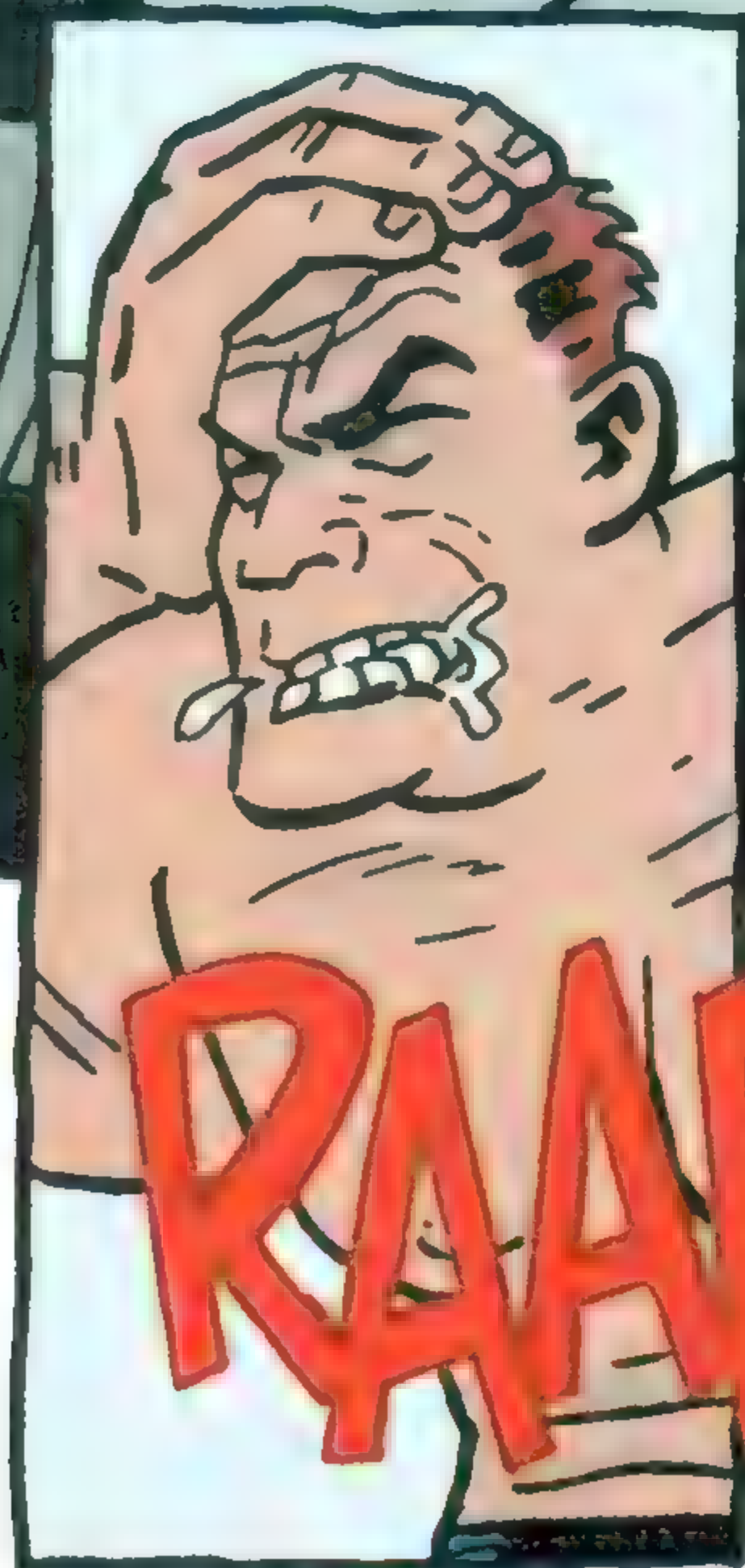


BUT
I GUESS
THEY WERE
WRONG
ON BOTH
COUNTS.



IT'S THE BATTLE FOR CASTLETOWN --- ROUND TWO!

JACK STAFF VS HURRICANE

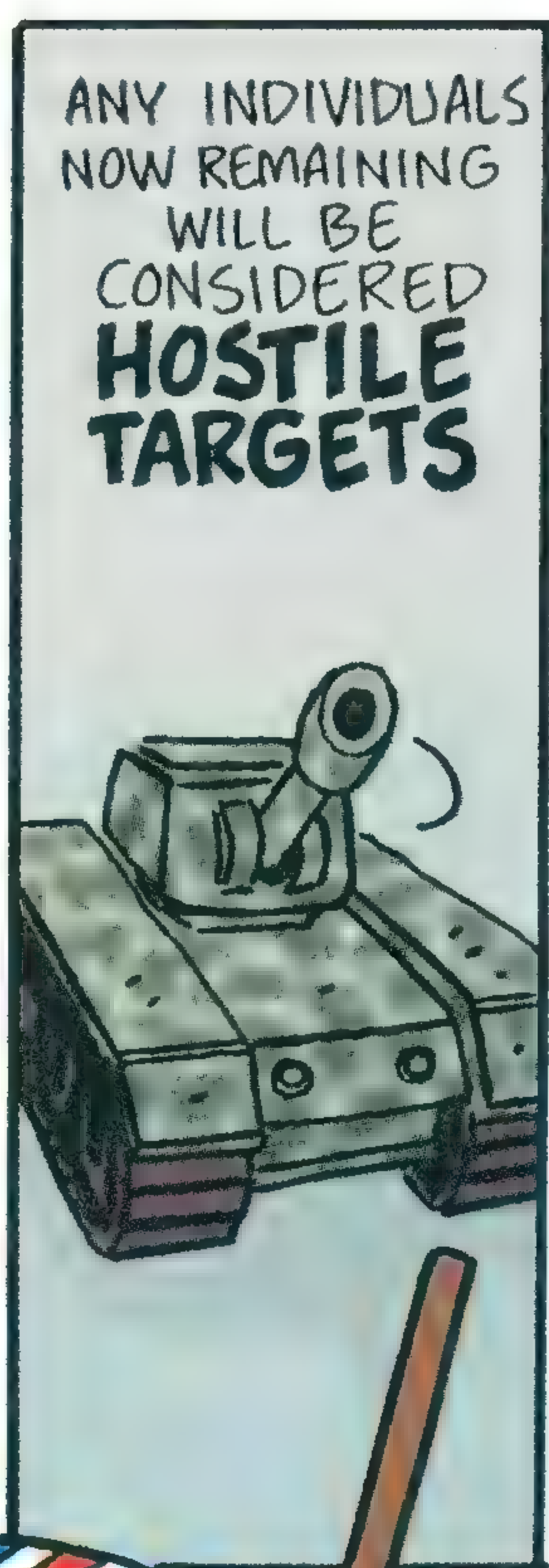


ATTENTION!
ATTENTION!

YEAH

THAT'S
WHERE
WE
WERE





AND ARE TO BE
ELIMINATED!



AND IN
THIS
CORNER
...

THE BRITISH ARMY!

**BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP**



HOW
LONG
HAS THIS
BEEN
TRANSMIT-
TING?

ABOUT
TWELVE
HOURS
COMMANDER.

TWELVE
HOURS?

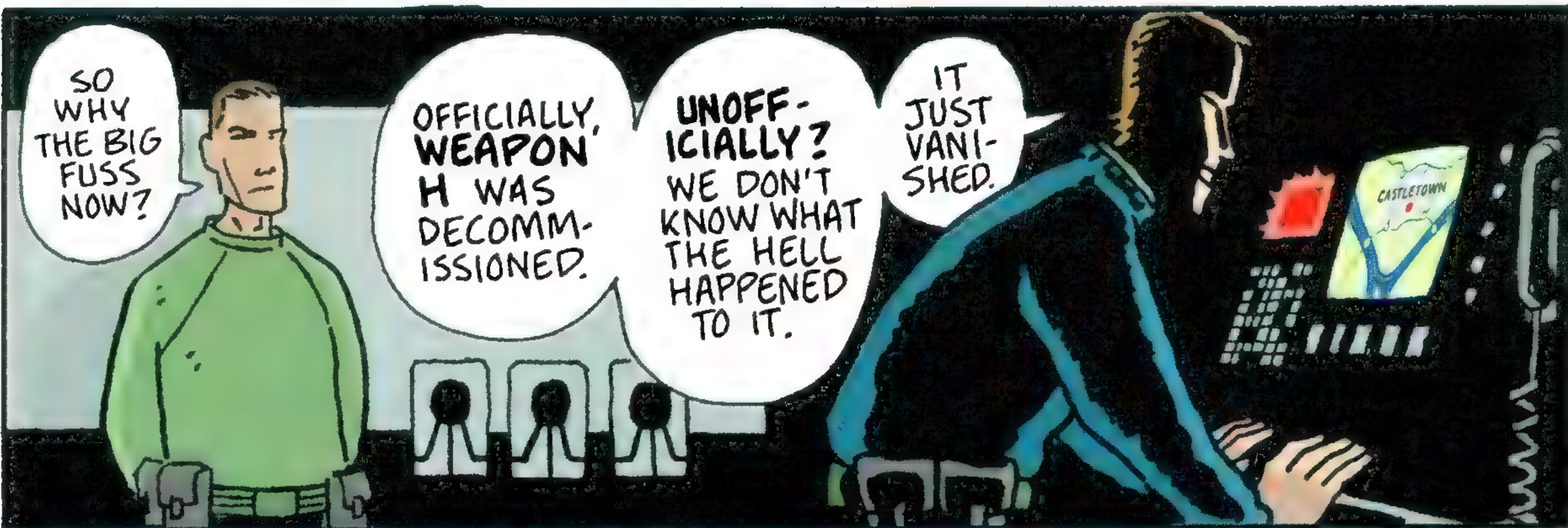
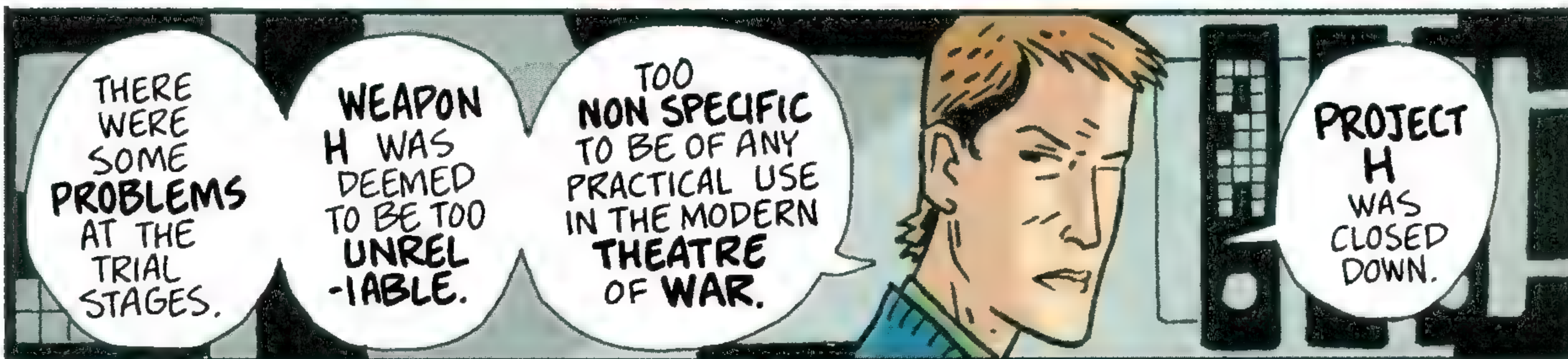
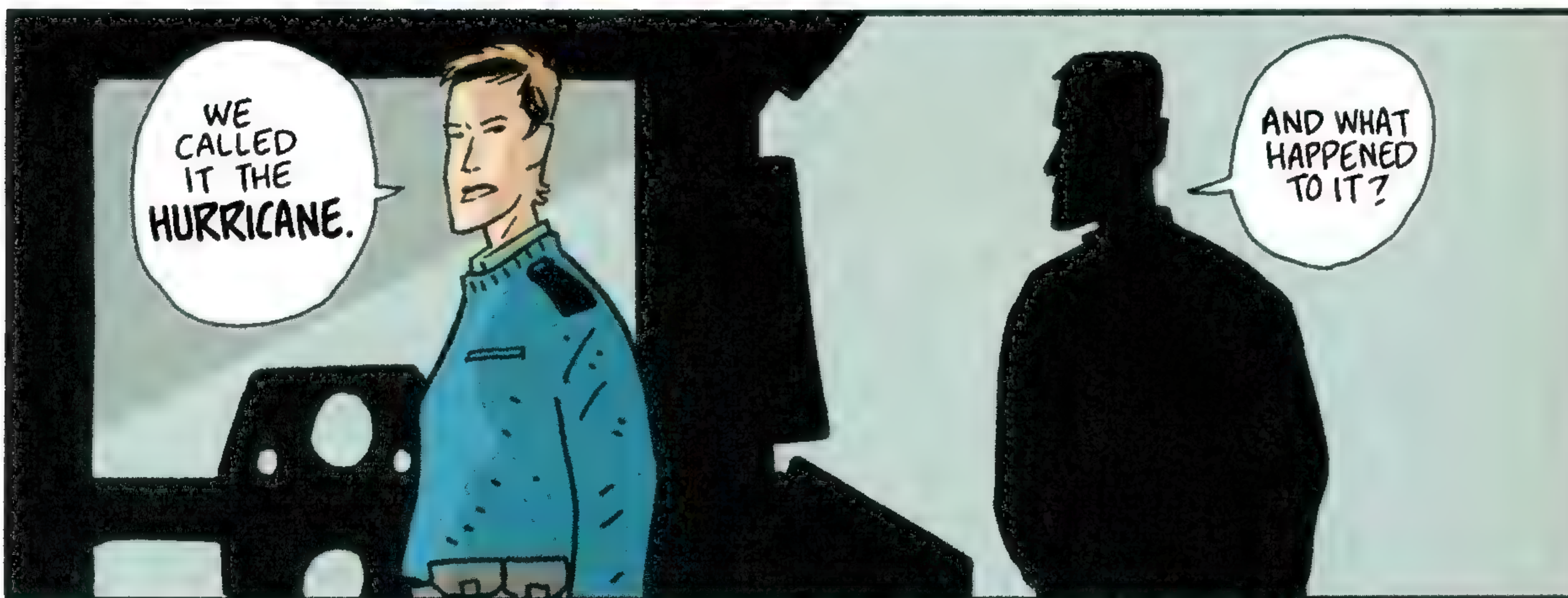
AND
NOBODY
THOUGHT
TO INFORM
ME UNTIL
NOW?

WITH RESPECT
COMMANDER
STEWART,
TWELVE HOURS
AGO, WE DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW
THIS WAS
HERE.

THIS
SITE WAS
ABANDONED
...WHAT?
TEN YEARS
AGO?

FIF-
TEEN?

TWENTY.



Well the winner of the most frequently asked question since the appearance of the first issue of the all colour Jack Staff series from Image has to be 'What happened to the final issue of the all black and white Jack Staff series from Dancing Elephant Press?'

I wondered if you'd notice that one.



FLAG WAVING

**WRITE TO
STAFF POST
P.O. BOX 104
HIGHBRIDGE
TA9 4WD
ENGLAND**

Danceleph@aol.com

**New! Check out the
Jack Staff Message Board
at www.imagecomics.com**

NEXT ISSUE



**Suspense! Drama! Thrills!
Jack Staff 3! It's a riot!**

Basically I got caught in a deadline pileup which meant I didn't have as much time between this issue and the last as I thought I was going to have. The result being that issue 12 of the black and white series has now been delayed until August. I'm really sorry about this, but, on the plus side, I'm going to make it a bumper Summer Special of an issue, so hopefully it'll be worth the wait. And in the meantime there is the colour series - and for those who have asked, no, you don't have to wait until you've read issue 12 before you can start reading the new series. But then if you are waiting for that final black and white issue you probably won't be reading this until late Summertime anyway...

If you are wondering how the two series fit together, this colour series picks up events about three months on from the end of the black and white run.

Thanks to everyone who's got behind the new series - one of the most impressive votes of support being the cover feature on the January issue of Comics International here in the UK. Thanks to Dez and Mike Conroy for that.

Out next month is the first in a new 6 issue series you might be interested in from Dancing Elephant Press called Burglar Bill, which I'll be writing and drawing. This is my 'long lost' comic series as the majority of the work was done about 13 years ago but due to publisher problems never actually saw print at the time. It's a 28 page black and white comic for \$2.95 US / £1.80 UK and it's probably the most favourite thing of mine that I've done.

Finally, a quick mention for the UK Comic Festival which will be held in Bristol over the weekend of May 24 - 25. Now in it's 5th year, it will again be at the Commonwealth Museum - which is right next to the Bristol Temple Meads Rail Station, making it very easy to get to. The big name guests so far are Jim Lee and Jeff Smith along with the usual suspects. I'll be there, so please stop and say hello - hopefully they'll have mastered the art of opening the windows this year! For more information, go to www.comics-festival.co.uk and whilst you're there you can vote for your favourite comics in the National Comics Awards!

STAFF POST

Dear Paul & the Image Gang,

I just wanted to drop you a line and tell you how much I enjoyed the first issue. I had seen some promotional artwork for the book in Wizard Magazine and was looking forward to reading it. I must say that you didn't fail to disappoint! In fact I want more, NOW! I know that there are only so many pages in any comic but I found that I wanted to know more about each of your characters as quickly as possible. I was amazed at how much I liked them all after just being introduced to them. Part of that I'm sure is your distinct artwork. I had seen an issue of Kane a few years ago and thought that your art was brilliant. Now that I've seen it in color, it adds so much energy. I guess I just want to wish you luck with the book and compliment your style and your great sense of page design. If you keep making it I'll keep buying it. And just as a casual thing I think Becky Burdock looks like Bianca on EastEnders!

Thanks for a fun read!

Eric Stafford
Lenoir, NC USA

Dear Paul,

Congratulations on the Image Jack Staff #1!! I've been following your work since Kane # 7, including the entire previous run of Britain's Greatest Hero, and this new first issue was an excellent re-boot. Just about everybody was here (Tom Tom, Q, John Smith, Becky, Det. Maveryk). I was happy to see that Harry Crane actually gives a little ethnic diversity to the cast (what's his ethnic origins?). Shock looked way cool. I'm also looking forward to the (hopeful) return of Charlie Raven, the Spider, and that master of the mystic arts whose name presently escapes me.

I'm a big fan of how you use black and white art, but Phil Elliott looked like he's earned his keep. Great coloring- he really helped flesh out a lot of the visuals even more. Though I am glad you kept up your high use of blacks- kept it familiar and the colors just kicked it up. Really slick icing to a cake packed with goodness, man. You've got to be one of the best story tellers in comics, and you looked in top form here.

I think this Image fast(er) track is gonna finally break you wide open. First, all the comics pros that have good taste (those that don't know about and love your work already) will be spreading the word. Then all the those pros' readers will wanna see what the fuss is about, and POW!, I won't have to hear, "Paul Grist? Who's that?"

You may get tired of hearing this, but I miss Kane very much. Jack Staff is superheroes done as well as they can be, but Kane was a rare gift to comics readers like myself. Not that I wanna see Jack get the "staff" anytime soon, I just... miss Kane *sniffle*

Take care, and best wishes to you and yours!

Tim Coslar
550 S. DuPont Pkwy #16-W
New Castle, DE 19720 USA

I should be getting started on a new Kane book later this year, so look for an all new book sometime towards the end of 2004. In the meantime all the issues are going to be collected in a series of trade paperbacks, so everyone has a chance to catch up. It'll be okay. Please don't cry...

Hi Paul,

One of the things I love most about Jack Staff is you've built the story against a backdrop of British comics history. I've only seen this done once before -- with Zenith's later segments -- but unlike Morrison, you have a genuine love for these old characters.

While I do adore your series, it's been incredibly hard to find in the US. When I heard that Jack Staff was going to be picked up by Image and be published in full color, I naturally thought that -- the series not being that well known over here -- you were going to reprint the series from the original #1 onwards. A friend of mine, former GI JOE and Micronauts penciler Eric Hanson, also hoped that might be the case as he was also having a difficult time tracking down issues.

Are back issues still available directly from you?

Best,

Michael Murphy
Nothus@aol.com

No plans to reprint the original series in colour, but we should have issues 1 to 12 available in a collected form by the end of the year. In the meantime single issues are still available - 3 -7 and 9 - 11 are \$2.95 US / £1.80 UK, issue 8 (bumper issue) is \$4.50 US / £3.25 UK. Prices are for single issues and US orders please add an extra \$1.50 to the total to cover postage. All cheques payable to Paul Grist. Dancing Elephant Press, P.O. Box 104, Highbridge, TA9 4WD, England.

Hello...

Just wanted to say that I really enjoyed your first issue of JACK STAFF. In fact, it read like one of those old Marvel Annuals that tried to shoehorn as many guest-stars as possible into the epic story presented therein...back when, you know, comics were just FUN to read? (What a novelty!) You're deftly introducing a new super-hero universe in a relatively small space. Well done!

I will be back for more...Many thanks...G@p

Ferris09buller

Jack Staff - putting the fun back into funny books. Outside of the Comics Journal does anybody actually use the phrase 'funny books' any more?

HAMMER ^{of the} GODS

'HAMMER HITS CHINA'

by **MICHAEL AVON
OEMING
MARK OBIE
WHEATLEY**



**JUNE
2003**



WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

CHARACTER NAMES AND LOGOS ARE THE PROPERTY OF MICHAEL AVON OEMING AND © MICHAEL AVON OEMING & MARK OBIE WHEATLEY, 2003. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NEVER REPRINTED WITHOUT PERMISSION. MICHAEL AVON OEMING AND © MICHAEL AVON OEMING & MARK OBIE WHEATLEY

AVON
2003

TECH JACKET

ISSUE NUMBER 8

ROBERT KIRKMAN

E.J. SU

Zack is forced
to make the most
important decision
of his life



WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

Tech Jacket is ™ and © Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su, 2003. All right reserved.

INVINCIBLE™

ISSUE NUMBER 5

IT CAME FROM
OUTER SPACE...



CW02

ROBERT KIRKMAN
CORY WALKER

JUNE 2003 FROM *image*®

Invincible is™ and © Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, 2003. All right reserved.

The Clock Maker

can Hans survive long
enough to tell Astrid
what he's found?



#5

Jim Krueger
Matt Smith
Zack Howard

JUNE 2003



WWW.IMAGECOMICS.COM

